THE CROW

J.O'BARR

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INTRODUCTION

IN A LONELY PLACE

ONE DAY YOU ARE GOING TO LOSE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE. NOTHING WILL PREPARE YOU FOR THAT DAY. NOT FAITH... NOT RELIGION... NOTHING. WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES, YOU WILL KNOW EMPTINESS... YOU WILL KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY ALONE. YOU WILL NEVER FORGET AND NEVER EVER FORGIVE. THE LONELY DO NOT USUALLY SPEAK AS COMPLETELY AND INTIMATELY AS JAMES O'BARR DOES HERE IN THIS BOOK - SO, IF ANYTHING, AT LEAST TAKE THIS LESSON FROM THE CROW: THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE TO LOSE.

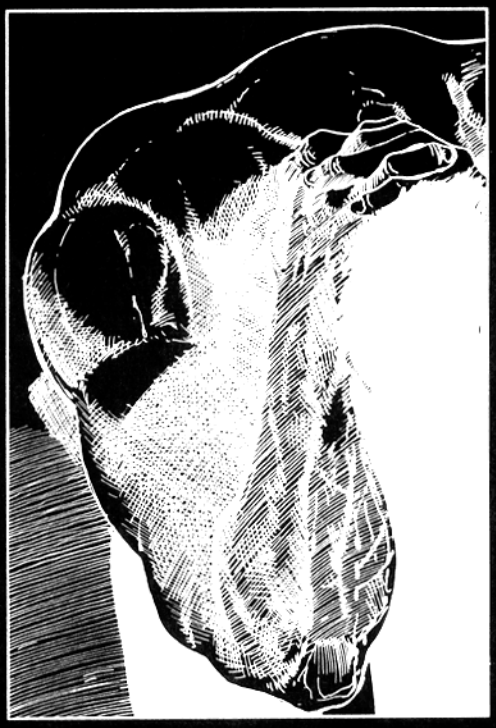
IF YOU ARE SOMEONE WHO HAS NOTHING TO LOSE, THEN YOU ARE ALREADY HERE... AND YOUR LESSON IS A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT ONE.

I HAVE SAT NEXT TO MY FRIEND JAMES THROUGH MANY COMIC BOOK CONVENTIONS AND I'VE LISTENED TO HIS HALF-TRUTH ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS LIKE: "WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA FOR THE CROW?" AND "WHY DID YOU DO THIS STORY?" HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEING BASED ON A TRUE STORY - SOMETHING HE READ IN THE NEWSPAPER ABOUT A YOUNG COUPLE MURDERED IN DETROIT. OR HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE INFLUENCES OF GREAT COMIC BOOK ARTISTS LIKE WILL EISNER OR VAUGHN BODE. AND SOMETIMES HE WOULD TALK ABOUT ALL THE INSPIRATIONAL MUSICAL INFLUENCES FROM JOY DIVISION AND THE CURE TO BIG BLACK AND PITCH SHIFTER. SO MANY STORIES AND EXPLANATIONS, BUT ONLY HALF OF THE WHOLE STORY. JAMES DID THIS BOOK BECAUSE HE DIED INSIDE, BUT FOUND HE WAS STILL BREATHING. THE CROW COMES FROM SOME LONELY VOID FAR BEYOND PAIN, SORROW, AND WORDS. THIS BOOK YOU ARE HOLDING WAS A PLACE FOR JAMES TO PUT ALL THE RAGE AND ANGER HE FELT AT HAVING SOMEONE HE LOVED TORN AWAY... AND IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO FIND ORDER AND JUSTICE WHERE THERE IS NONE... FOR SOME THINGS THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS... ABSOLUTELY NONE. THAT HARD FACT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH. THE EVENT - THE SPLIT SECOND OF TIME THAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS LONELY PLACE - CANNOT BE FORGIVEN, NO MATTER HOW INEVITABLE IT WAS. IT TOOK AWAY THE FUTURE AND IT ENDED EVERYTHING, EXCEPT FOR THIS: THE EMOTIONAL INERTIA OF A RELATIONSHIP. THAT IS FOREVER AND IT IS ALL THAT YOU HAVE LEFT. LEARN TO LIVE WITH THAT. INFLUENCE IT. ACCESS IT. JAMES WROTE A LOVE LETTER CALLED "THE CROW." THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LOVE LETTER I HAVE EVER READ... A DREAM, A VISION, AND A REAL PLACE TO RECOVER SOMETHING THAT WAS LOST.

YOU WILL FIND A QUOTE IN A. A. ATTANASIO'S AFTERWORD WHICH READS, "THE HAND IS NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT CREATES." THERE IS NO INTRODUCTION MORE FITTING FOR THE CROW. THIS BOOK IS JAMES' CEREMONY... A MESSAGE TO YOU AND ME. LISTEN CLOSELY...

-JOHN BERGIN
KANSAS CITY 1993

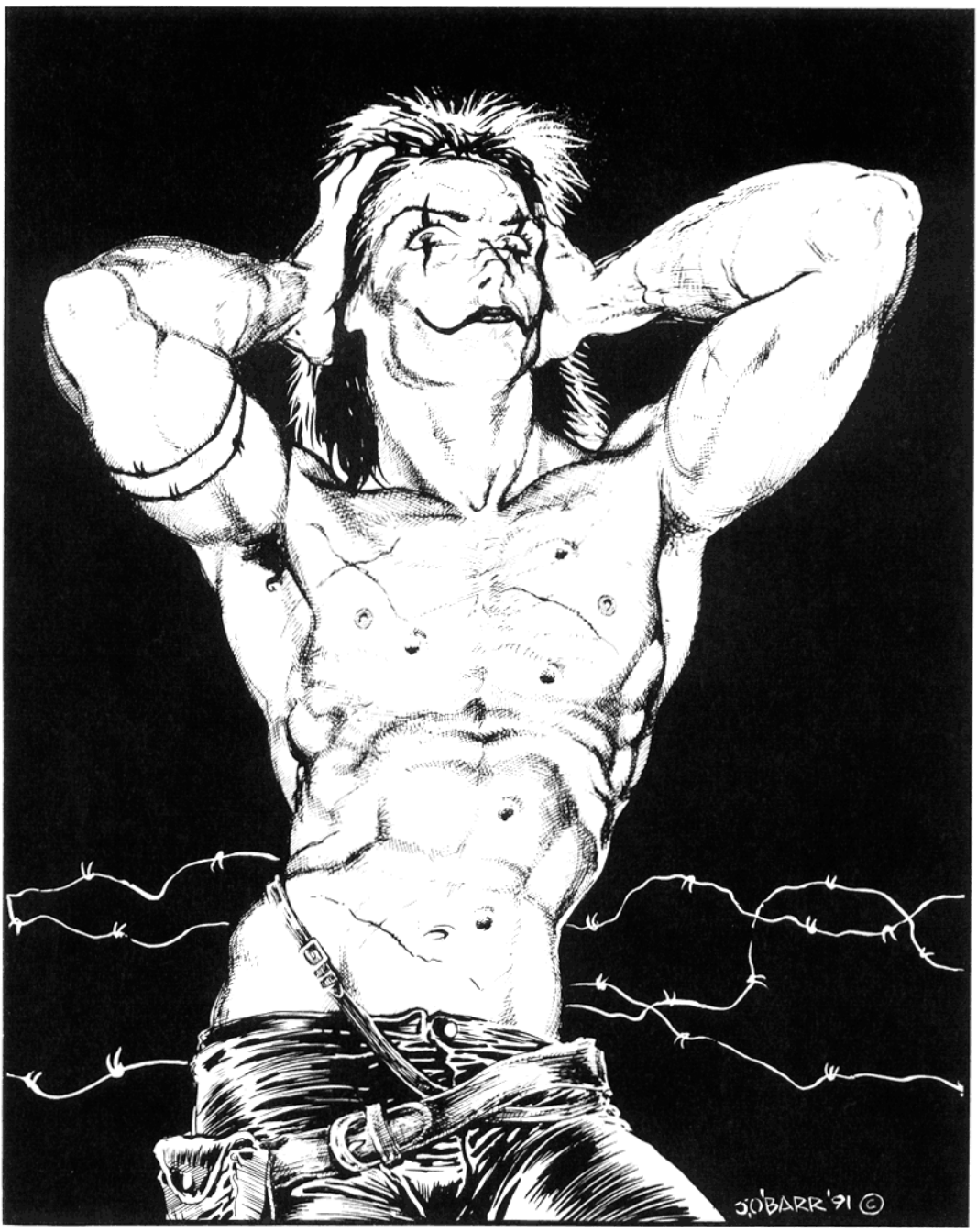
IN MEMORY OF
BRANDON LEE



YOU'LL BE SADLY MISSED.
LOVE, JAMES

LAMENT

. PAIN & FEAR .



PAIN

A YEAR AGO... A COLD OCTOBER NIGHT...
A BROKEN DOWN CAR ON A DIRT ROAD...
A MAN... A GIRL... MADNESS... PAIN... AND THE SHADOWS...
MY GOD, THE SHADOWS...

FEAR

HE SCREAMS AND SCREAMS AND POUNDS HIS HEAD
AGAINST THE WALL UNTIL WAILING PHANTOM FIRETRUCKS
PACES ACROSS HIS VISION.

PAIN, PAIN IS ALL HE WANTS.
AND HATE, YES HATE.

WE SHALL NEVER FORGET AND NEVER FORGIVE.

AND NEVER EVER FEAR.
FEAR IS FOR THE ENEMY.
FEAR AND BULLETS.

INERTIA

GOT THE TOSHIBA MAN EDDIE PAYS A HUNDRED FOR TOSHIBA... I IN THE ROCK TONITE MAN.

MAKE ME PUKE, THESE FOLKS... CAINT FEED THEY KIDS BUT THEY GOT TOSHIBA...
NOW JONES TRANSFER GOT TOSHIBA..
YESSIR, I BE IN THE ROCK BIG TIME!
EH..?
WHAT THE HELL?

JESUS H...
..CHRIST!
SMASH
DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, MR JONES?

ATTENTION?! MAN, YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUTTA ME! DAMN!
YOU JUST COST ME A HUNDRED BUCKS, PAL... I THINKS YOU BETTER COUGH UP SOME CASH...
SHELBY THE GIANT SAID YOU KNOW T-BIRD...
KLIK
C'MON, MONEY, MAN, MONEY... NOW.
...TOM TOM...
..TOP DOLLAR...
...FUNBOY...
...TIN TIN...
THAT'S IT!
YOU ALL DONE!

I AM THE BOILING MAN...
PAIN?
MAN YOU MUST BE DUSTED NOT TO FEEL THAT...
I KNOW PAIN AT THE MOLECULAR LEVEL...
...IT PULLS AT MY ATOMS
...SINGS TO ME IN AN ALPHABET OF FEAR...
...COME TO BREAK THE BONES OF YOUR SINS, MEAT PUPPET...
TRY AGAIN?
...I..I THINKS I'LL PASS...

T-BIRD AND THE OTHERS... WHERE ARE THEY? SHELBY THE GIANT DIDN'T KNOW... HE SAID YOU WOULD.
SHELBY WOULDN'T ROLL ON ME, MAN.
OH, HE TOLD..
IT TOOK THREE DIGITS BUT HE TOLD..
..YOU LYIN'..
I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT THE FINGERS AS DOCUMENTATION BUT HE HAD TO EAT THEM ALSO.
OH MAN, T-BIRD KILL ME SURE!!! HE KILL ME SURE IF I TOLD!!!
FINGERS OR TOES?

OK!OK!OK! I AINT SEEN TBIRD OR TIN TIN IN WEEKS BUT TOM TOM'S DOWN ON GRATIOT AND TEN. TOP HAS A PLACE AT THE HOTEL RENO ON SCHAEFER...
...FUN BOY IN THE COUNTY TILL THE 27TH...
...YOU GONNA KILL ME NOW?
WHY MR. JONES, I ALREADY COUNT YOU AMONG THE DEAD.
LOOK! IT'S A FULL MOON...
THAT'S A STREET LIGHT, GHOST MAN!...
IT WAS A FULL MOON THAT NIGHT, TOO...
YOU A LOON, MAN..
TELL THEM I'M COMING, MR. JONES.

MR. JONES?
Y..YES, SIR...
ARE THERE, SPOTS IN A LEOPARDS EYES, ALSO?
JOBARR

ORDINARY NOCTURNE

One breath tears operatic rents in these partitions,
Destroys the pivots of eroded roofs,
Dispels the limits of the hearth,
Makes casements disappear.

Along the vine I came,
Using a gargoyle as a footrest,
And into this carriage which shows its age
In convex windowpanes, in rounded panels,
In torturous upholstery.

Hearse of my lonely sleep,
Shepard's cart of my stupidity . . .
The vehicle spins on the grass of an overgrown highway;
In a blemish high on the right window
Revolve pale lunar fictions, breasts and leaves.

A very dark green and a very dark blue blot out the image.
We unhitch and unharness beside a patch of gravel.

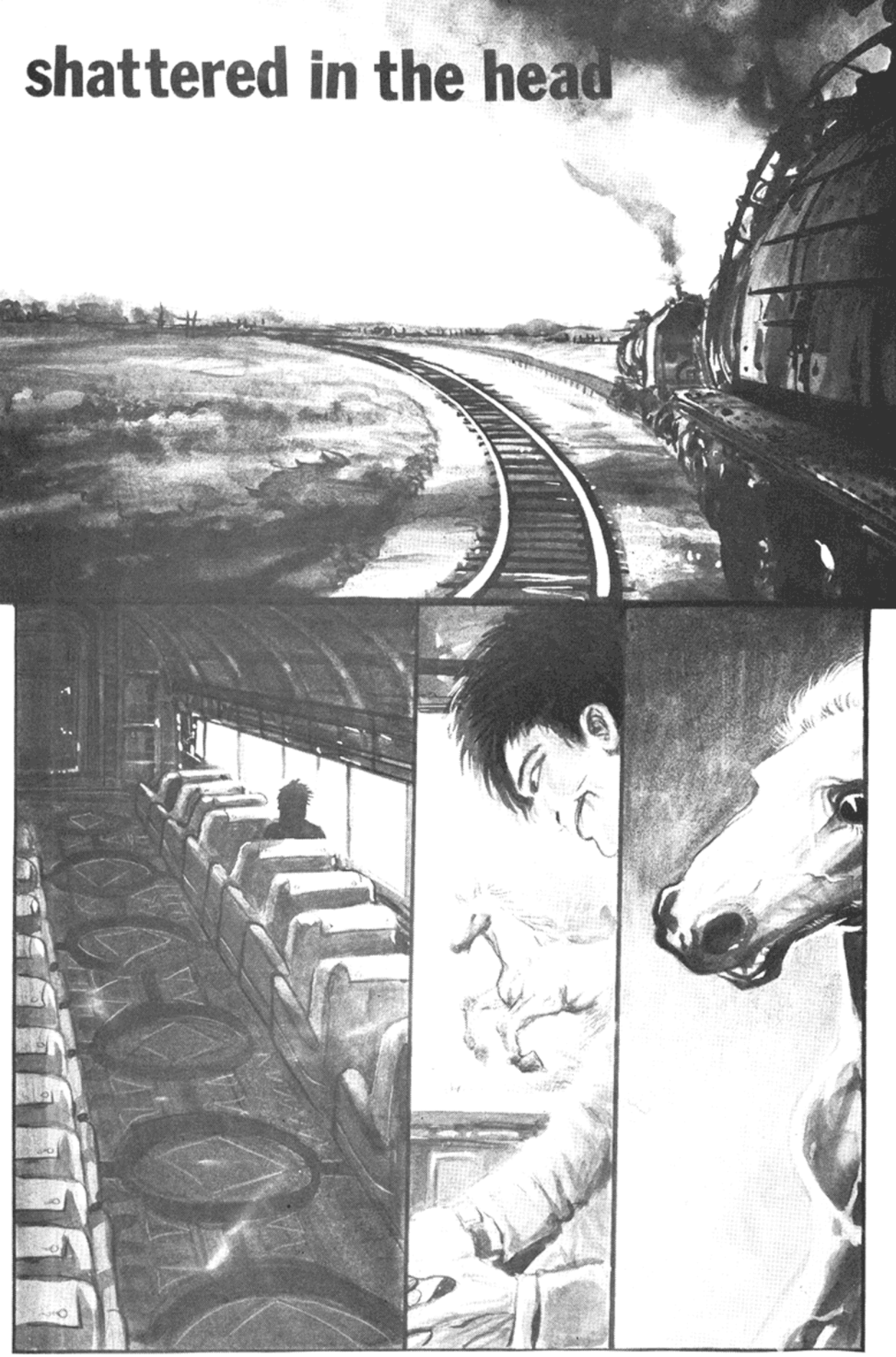
– Here we will whistle for storms, for Sodoms and Solymans,
For wild beasts and armies.

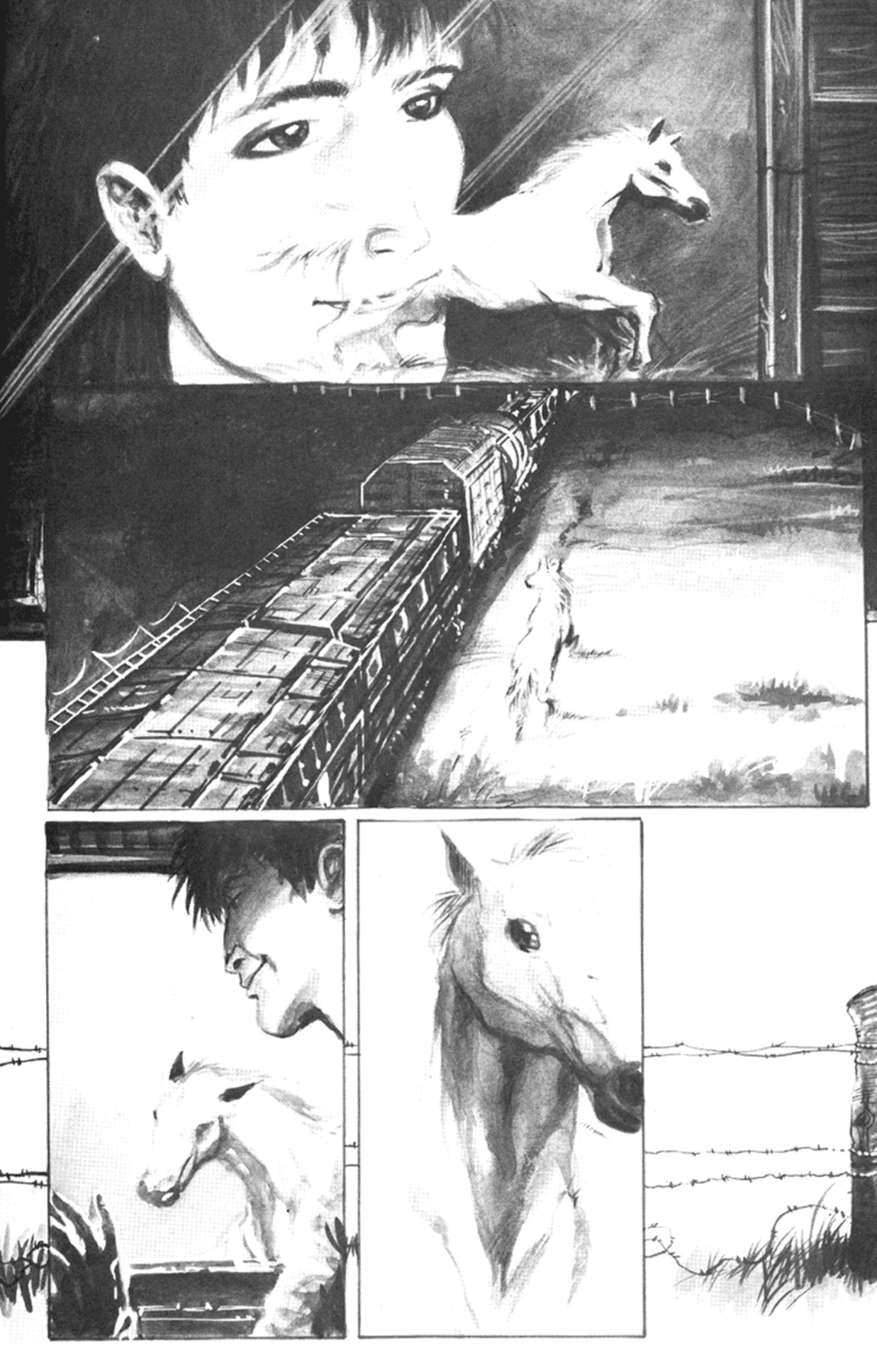
(Postilion and dream horses will ride on
through more dense and suffocating groves,
to sink me to my eyelids in the silken spring.)

– And drive ourselves off, whipped through splashing water
And spilled drinks, to roll on the barking of bulldogs . . .

One breath dispels the limits of the hearth.

– Arthur Rimbaud


shattered in the head



SHOULDN'T HAVE LOOKED, BOY...
CONDUCT
TICKETS, PLEASE.
WELL?

THE CROW

BOOK ONE
PAIN

J.O'BARR

STILL, SO STILL, IN THE CITY TONIGHT, TWELVE O'CLOCK TICK-TOCK, WHEN ALL THAT IS GOOD SLINKS AWAY LIKE A BEATEN DOG AND THE BLACK BLACK SHADOWS ARE ALIVE WITH THE DEAD, TWISTED POETRY IN BROKEN ENGLISH, FLESH AND BLOOD AND STARING FACES...

SO GREY AND DESPAIRING, STRONG AS STEEL BUT COLLAPSED INSIDE, THE CROW LAUGHS UNDER A STREET LIGHT, A VOODOO SMILE OF ONE WHO LIVED AND DIED AND STILL YET LIVES...

HE MAKES HIS WAY HOME WHERE HE CAN BE SHAPELESS IN THE DARK AND PAINT HIS FACE IN THE COLOURS OF JOY...

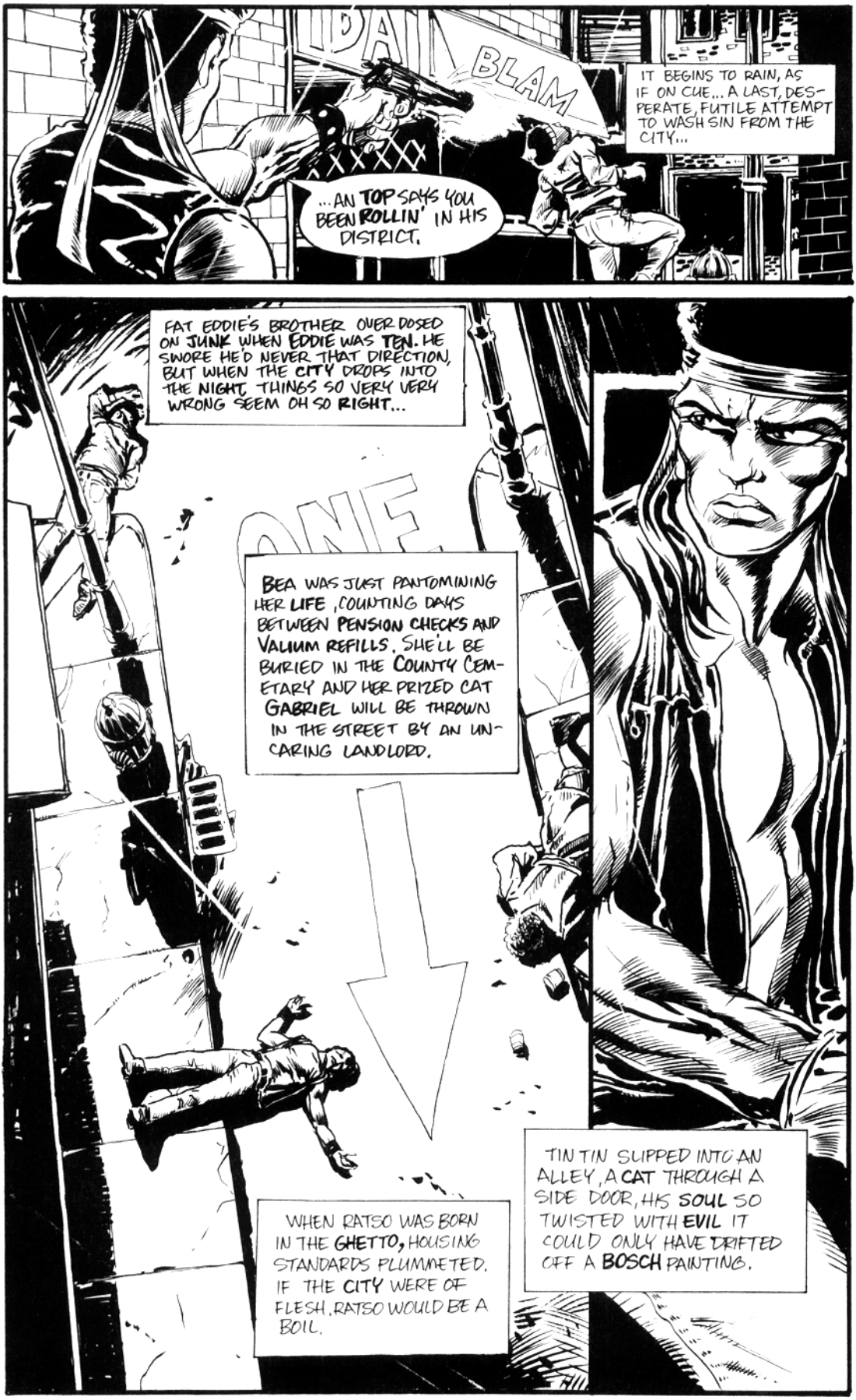
TONIGHT, HELL SENDS AN ANGEL BEARING GIFTS...

PART ONE

WHITE HEAT

IN THE CITY, IN THE GHETTO, ON A DEAD END STREET, IN A FORGOTTEN HOUSE...
A SHAPE, A MAN. HE STARES OUT AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW, UNMOVING, YET SEEING NOTHING, LIFELESS AND SICK, SLUMPED IN DESPAIR, HE IS LISTENING TO SOUNDS, TO VOICES. VOICES THAT HAVE BEEN GONE FOR A YEAR, BUT STILL RING SO LOUDLY...
LOSED
HE HEARS GUNSHOTS... A GIRL CRYING... SOBBING AND BEGGING..
HE COULD NOT HELP HER BUT NOW HE CAN NOT REMEMBER WHY...
HE HEARS MEN'S VOICES, SHOUTS, SO EVIL AND GRIM HE HEARS THEIR NAMES: TIN TIN, FUN BOY, T-BIRD, TOP DOLLAR AND TOM TOM. THE SOUNDS SINK INTO HIS HEART LIKE ICE AND BURN IN HIS HEAD WITH A HEAT SO INTENSE IT GLOWS WHITE...
HEY, TIN TIN, WE HERE JUS' LIKE AH SAID! WAIT TILL YA SEE WHAT RATSO'S GOT, TIN!
WHAT'CHA GOT RATSO, MORE DIRTY PITCHERS?

38...NOT TRACE-ABLE. HOT FROM THE EAST SIDE.
HOW MUCH?
NICE HUH, TIN TIN!
HUNNERT BUCKS AN IM GONE MAN...
FOOD STAMPS ACCEPTED CHECK O.K.
LETS SEE HOW IT WORKS.
SURE. LET'S GO OVER TO CASS AN...
WHAT YOU DOIN' MAN?!!?
BLAM
OH MAN, OH MAN! YOU NUTS!!
DAMN YOU! YOU GONNA BRING THE BLUES DOWN ON ALLA US!
I COME DOWN HERE IN GOOD FAITH AN YOU PULL THIS! YOU A FOOL! A FOOL!
TIN TIN, WHAT'CHO SNUFF THAT OL LADY FO' MAN??
'MEMBER THAT BAD PONY YOU STUCK ME WITH?
YOU OUT, RATSO.
BLAM
YOU CRAZY!! MAN, YOU CRAZY!!


BLAM
...AN TOP SAYS YOU BEEN ROLLIN' IN HIS DISTRICT.
IT BEGINS TO RAIN, AS IF ON CUE... A LAST, DESPERATE, FUTILE ATTEMPT TO WASH SIN FROM THE CITY...
FAT EDDIE'S BROTHER OVERDOSED ON JUNK WHEN EDDIE WAS TEN. HE SWORE HE'D NEVER THAT DIRECTION, BUT WHEN THE CITY DROPS INTO THE NIGHT, THINGS SO VERY VERY WRONG SEEM OH SO RIGHT...
ONE.
BEA WAS JUST PANTOMIMING HER LIFE, COUNTING DAYS BETWEEN PENSION CHECKS AND VALIUM REFILLS. SHE'LL BE BURIED IN THE COUNTY CEMETARY AND HER PRIZED CAT GABRIEL WILL BE THROWN IN THE STREET BY AN UNCARING LANDLORD.
WHEN RATSO WAS BORN IN THE GHETTO, HOUSING STANDARDS PLUMMETED. IF THE CITY WERE OF FLESH, RATSO WOULD BE A BOIL.
TIN TIN SLIPPED INTO AN ALLEY, A CAT THROUGH A SIDE DOOR, HIS SOUL SO TWISTED WITH EVIL IT COULD ONLY HAVE DRIFTED OFF A BOSCH PAINTING.

BAR
HELLO, TIN TIN... REMEMBER ME?
IT'S A CHILLY OCTOBER NIGHT BUT TIN TIN IS FLUSH WITH HEAT...

PART TWO
NEW DAWN FADES
REMEMBER?
NO, I DONT. WHAT YOU ALL PAINTED UP FOR, BOY?
A FUNERAL MARCH.
YOUR OWN !!!
SNIK
BLAM

REJOICE TO THE FULL IN THE GLORY THAT IS ABOUT TO BE YOURS!
WHO ARE YOU?!?
AND GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD GOD WHO HAS CALLED YOU TO HIS KINGDOM!!
MAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU!
A YEAR AGO... A COLD OCTOBER NIGHT... A BROKEN DOWN CAR ON A DIRT ROAD... A MAN... A GIRL... MADNESS... ...PAIN.. AND SHADOWS... MY GOD, THE SHADOWS!!
....YOU?!?...

T-BIRD SAID YOU WAS DEAD...
AM I NOT?
DON'T LOOK!! DON'T LOOK!!
T-BIRD DONE IT!! HE HAD THE GUN!!

"THE PLACE IS REALLY STARTING TO SHAPE UP, ISN'T IT, ERIC?"
"OH SURE, FOURTEEN MORE COATS OF PAINT AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY MIGHT APPROVE IT!!"

AND THE GIRL?
MAN SHE WAS OUT COLD BY THE TIME I GOT TO HER...
DON'T LOOK!! DON'T LOOK!!
"OH YOU'RE JUST SO FUNNY, WISE ASS. I HAPPEN TO THINK IT LOOKS VERY NICE."
"VERY NICE"

WE WAS ALL HIGH, IT JUS' HAPPENED...
YOUR SOUL ROTS...
I GOT CONNECTIONS I KIN FIX YOU UP,,,
IT FESTERS...
I'M TALKIN' TO YOU, MAN! YOU CAN'T,,
BUT FEAR NOT...
I HAVE MEDICINE!!
BOOM
MAY GOD GRANT YOU THE MERCY THAT I CANNOT.

THERE IS A MAN...
PLAYING A VIOLIN...
AND THE STRINGS...
ARE THE NERVES IN HIS OWN ARM.

A TWISTED SOUL-
THE MORTAR...
DESPAIR-THE
BRICKS...
DON'T LOOK,
ERIC! DON'T
LOOK!!
TO BUILD A TEMPLE
TO SADNESS.
HE TIES A
SPENT SHELL IN
HIS HAIR.
"NUMBER
ONE," HE
SAYS.

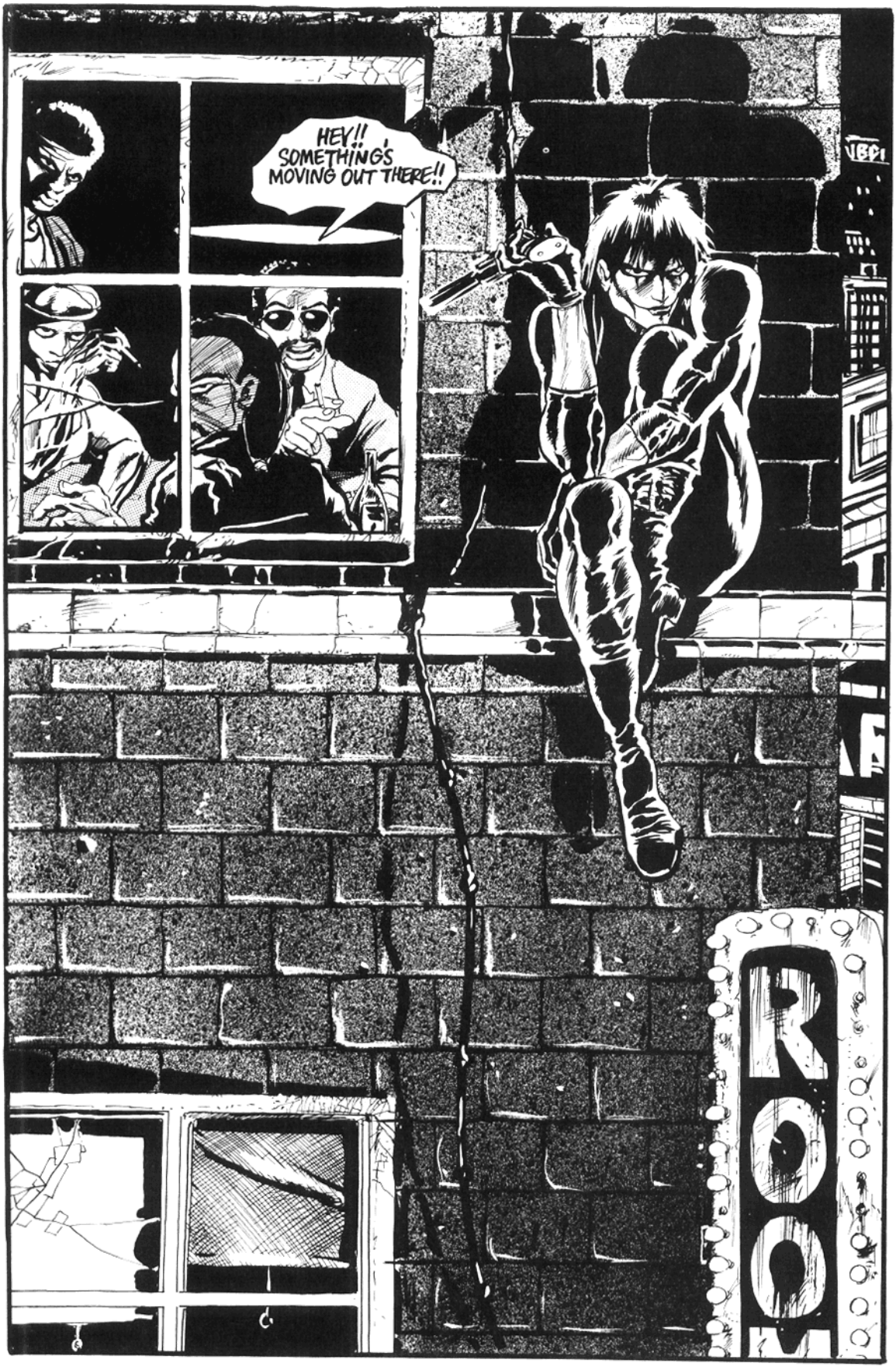
SOMEBODY BLEW HIS FRIGGIN' HEAD OFF, TOP DOLLAR, AND WE THINKS YOU SHOULD LOOK INTO IT...
GIN
ARE YOU DICTATING TO ME, SANCHEZ?
FOILS
Shadowlaw

NAW, TOP, HE'S JUST SAYIN' IT LOOKS BAD ON YOU...
LOOKS LIKE YOU AIN'T IN CONTROL.

YOU THINK I CARE IF YOU OR ONEA YUR PUNKS GETS SNUFFED?
HEY, MAN...

"SHUT UP!! THIS IS MY OUTFIT... MY DOPE... AN' MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD..."
... MY WORD IS THE LAW."

THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN FOR OPPOSING VIEW POINTS...

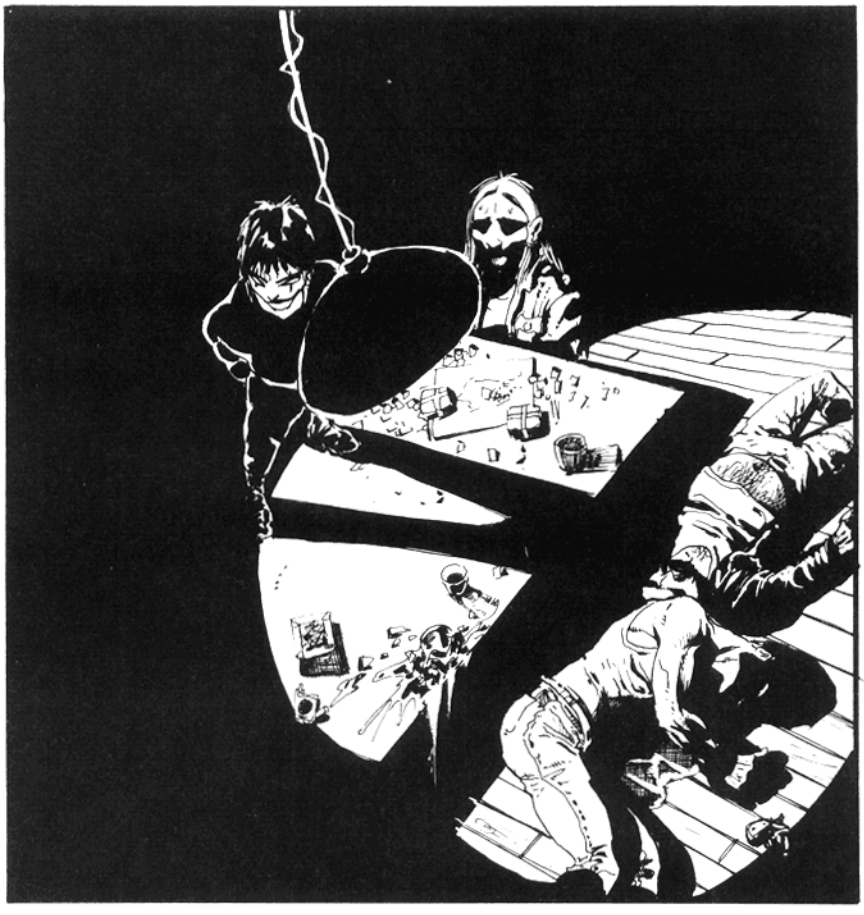

HEY!! SOMETHING'S MOVING OUT THERE!!
ROOF

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
SANTA CLAUS...
BOOM
... AND YOU'VE ALL BEEN VERY BAD THIS YEAR...
GIN
BOOM

BLOOD.. BULLET PROOF VEST NOT WORK.. BLOOD...
POOR SOUL, ONE NEED NOT SUFFER SO..
BOOM
WHERE MY GUN?!?
THIS BE MINE, MAN!
ON DRY GIN
NO WAY, SANCHEZ BE LAYIN' ON YOURS...
THAT BE A 44! THAT MINE!
GIN
SHOOT HIM!! SOMEBODY SHOOT HIM!!
AND WHAT MIGHT YOUR NAME BE, MR .44?
THEY CALLS ME MAD JACK, REMEMBER THAT!
OH, A POET: MAD JACK! I SHALL REMEMBER THAT!!

BOOM
CRASH
LOOK OUT!! LOOK OUT!!
CLICK
BOOM
I'M HIT!! I'M HIT!!
YOU MUTHA...
HA HA HA HA
DROWNING MEN...
GLUCK GLUCK GLU
CLICK CLICK CLICK
BOOM
SMASH
ERK

MAD JACK!! YOU SPORT A VEST ALSO!? NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES?
I GONNA CAP YOU, MAN..
CLIK
TING
YOU'VE GOT TO HIT ME FIRST, JACK.
BOOM
DOWN WITH THE LAMBS, UP WITH THE LARK, RUN TO BED CHILDREN, BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
WHEN SORROWS COME, THEY COME NOT SINGLE SPIES, BUT IN BATTALIONS.
I'VE ALLIES IN HEAVEN, JACK, I'VE COMMRADES IN HELL...
SAY HELLO FOR ME...
BOOM
SPLAK
WELL, WELL, TOP... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE STILL WASTING GOOD AIR...



"AROUND AROUND THE SUN
WE GO,
THE MOON GOES 'ROUND
THE EARTH,
WE DO NOT DIE OF DEATH
WE DIE OF VERTIGO!"

THE KILL
DO YOU REMEMBER? LOOK CLOSE, TOP.

...A MAN AND A GIRL...
LOOK PAL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT... BUT IF I DONE YA WRONG I'LL SQUARE IT UP...
"THERE'S FIVE GRAND IN THE DRESSER OVER THERE. TAKE IT AN' GO. WE'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THIS..."
MAN, TAKE THE DOPE, TOO. THERE'S ALMOST HALF A KEE LEFT...
WORTH TEN K EASY...
YOU WOULD BARTER YOUR LIFE WITH CHEMICALS?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!!

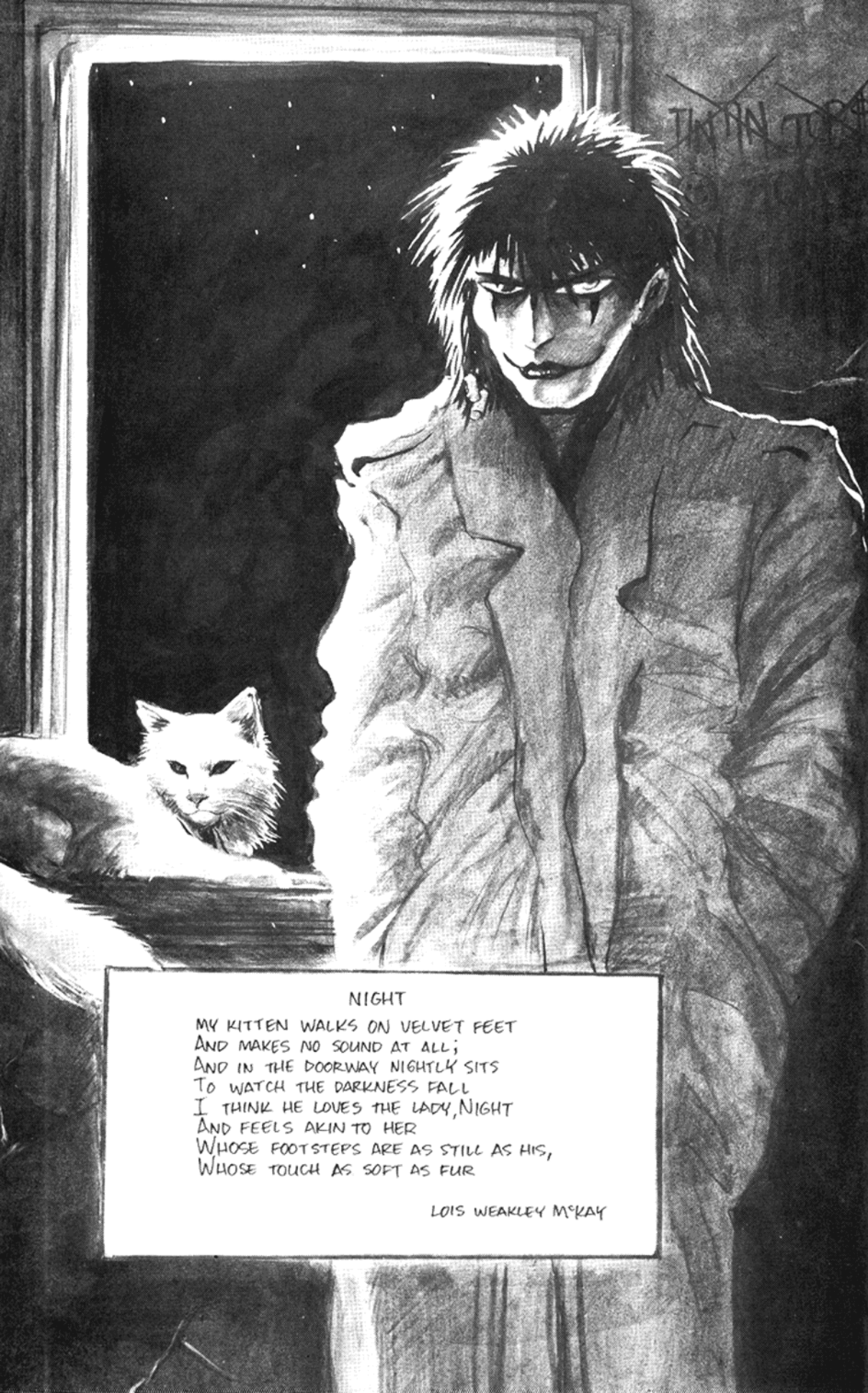
...A '71 PLYMOUTH...
I OFFER YOU 15 GRAND AN YOU ACT LIKE IT DON'T MEAN NOTHIN!
...THE GIRL...
...HER NAME WAS SHELLY...
...IT STARTED TO RAIN...
DO YOU REMEMBER?
YOU AINT EVEN LISTENIN'!
MAN, YOU'RE A FRIGGIN' NUT! YOU GONNA SHOOT ME? COME ON! SHOOT!!
YOU WORTHLESS PUNK..
YEAH, I REMEMBER THE CAR AN' THE BROAD, SO WHAT?
SO THIS...
CLICK
BOOM

"YOU CAN GO TO HELL."
"I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A GUIDE TO TAKE ME BY THE HAND"
:KA-KLIK:
BOOM

"SO, I HEARD THESE BIG BOOTS GOING CLUNK, CLUNK, CLUNK DOWN THE HALL AN' I LOOKS OUT THINKIN' IT'S THEM DAMN HOODLUMS AGIN, BUT THERE'S THIS SEVEN FOOT VAMPIRE, LIKE DRACULA OR SOMETHIN', JUST FLOATIN' DOWN THE HALL..."
947
508

"HE'S HEAD TO TOE IN BLACK AND HIS SKIN'S AS WHITE AS ASHES AND HIS HAIR'S STICKIN' ALL UP LIKE A HAYSTACK. FUNNY THING IS, ALL THE CATS IN THE BUILDING IS FOLLOWIN' HIM LIKE HE WAS A GHOST OR SOMETHIN'."
ZAP

"THEN HE TURNED TO ME AN' SMILED AND SAID, REAL POLITE LIKE..."
EVENING, MA'AM.



NIGHT

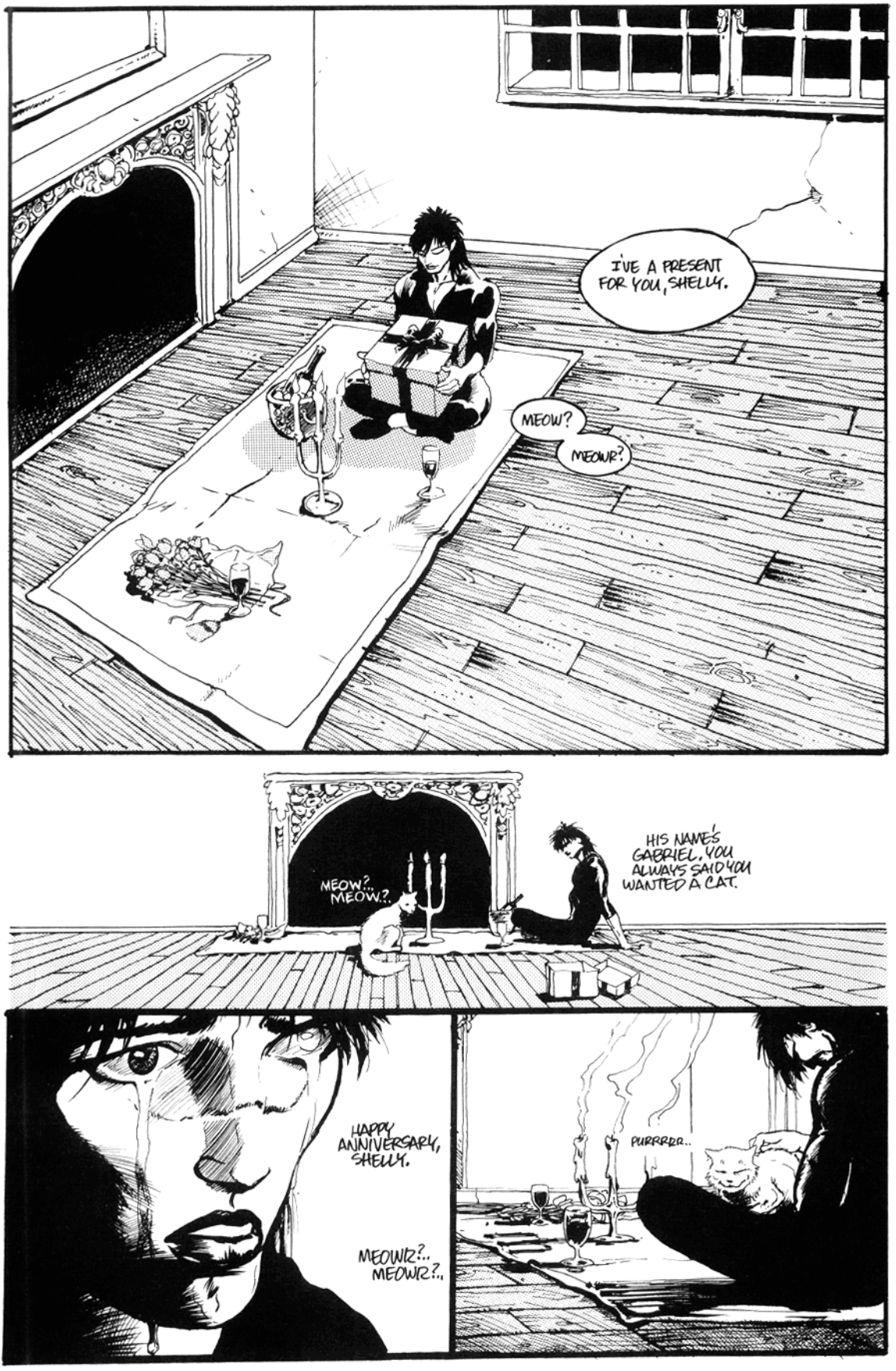
MY KITTEN WALKS ON VELVET FEET
AND MAKES NO SOUND AT ALL;
AND IN THE DOORWAY NIGHTLY SITS
TO WATCH THE DARKNESS FALL
I THINK HE LOVES THE LADY, NIGHT
AND FEELS AKIN TO HER
WHOSE FOOTSTEPS ARE AS STILL AS HIS,
WHOSE TOUCH AS SOFT AS FUR

LOIS WEARLEY McKAY

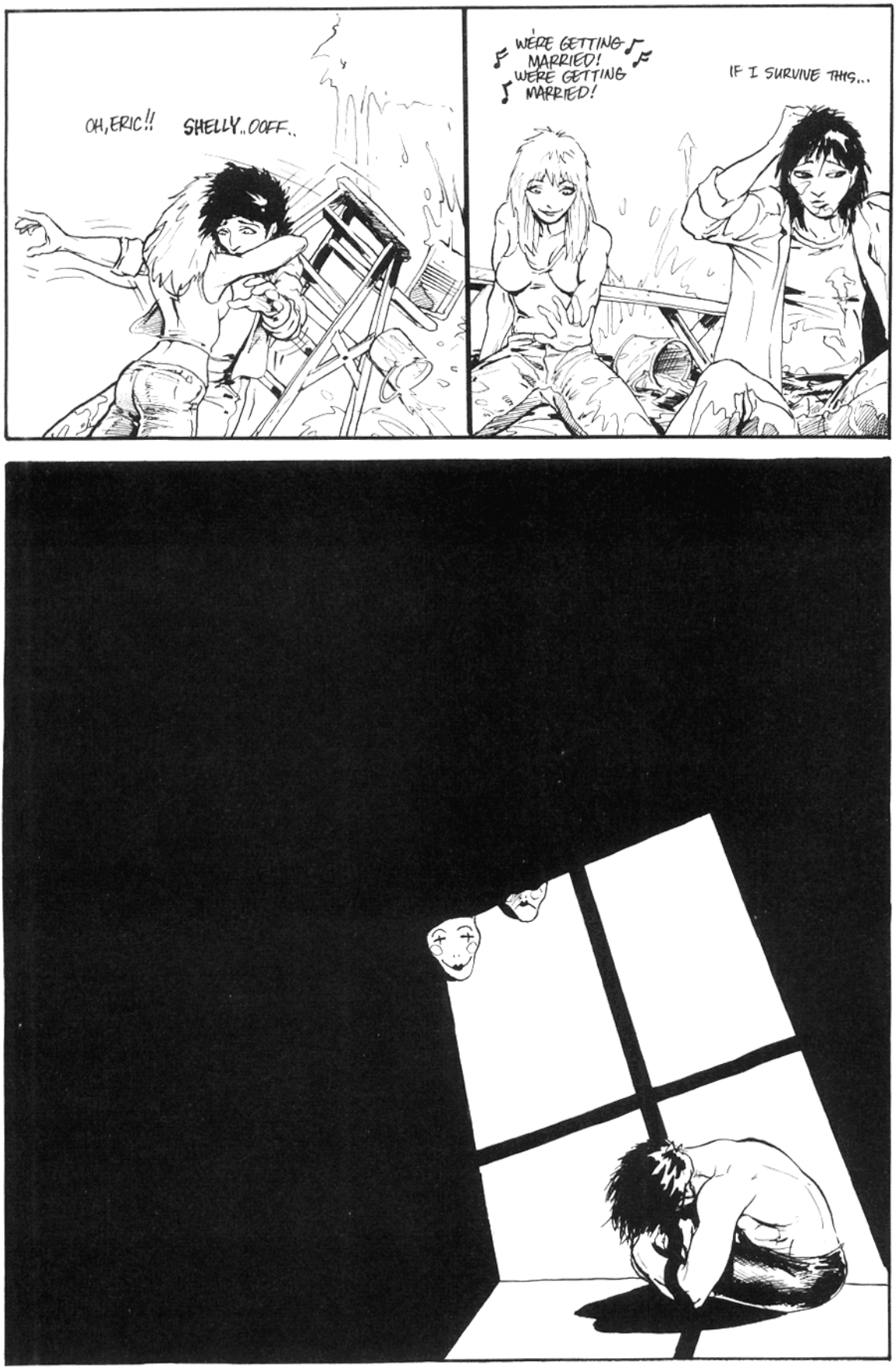
IN THE CITY, WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO HOVER AND DEVILS COME TO CROON, THE SEX OF THE NIGHT LETS DOWN HER BLACK NARCOTIC HAIR UNDER A YELLOW OPIUM MOON. HERE A SHADOW OF A SHADOW, AN EARTH BOUND GHOST SHIVERS, NOT FROM OCTOBER CHILL, BUT IN EROTIC PAIN. HE SAYS TO HIS DEAD LOVER "WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE, WITH FLESH SO SOFT AND HEARTS SO UNWISE, BUT LIKE TIGERS IN TALL TALL GRASS, LIKE CHRIST IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE, WE SUCKED IN OUR FEAR AND WE CAME HERE." NOW ALL THE ATROCITIES ARE REPLAYED, LIKE A LATE LATE SHOW: "WE CAME HERE BUT WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE STAYED. THOUGH WE HAD INERTIA AND RADIUS AND DEPTH, WE TOOK THE LAST TRAIN WITH VELOCITY AND PASSED OUR OWN DEATHS."

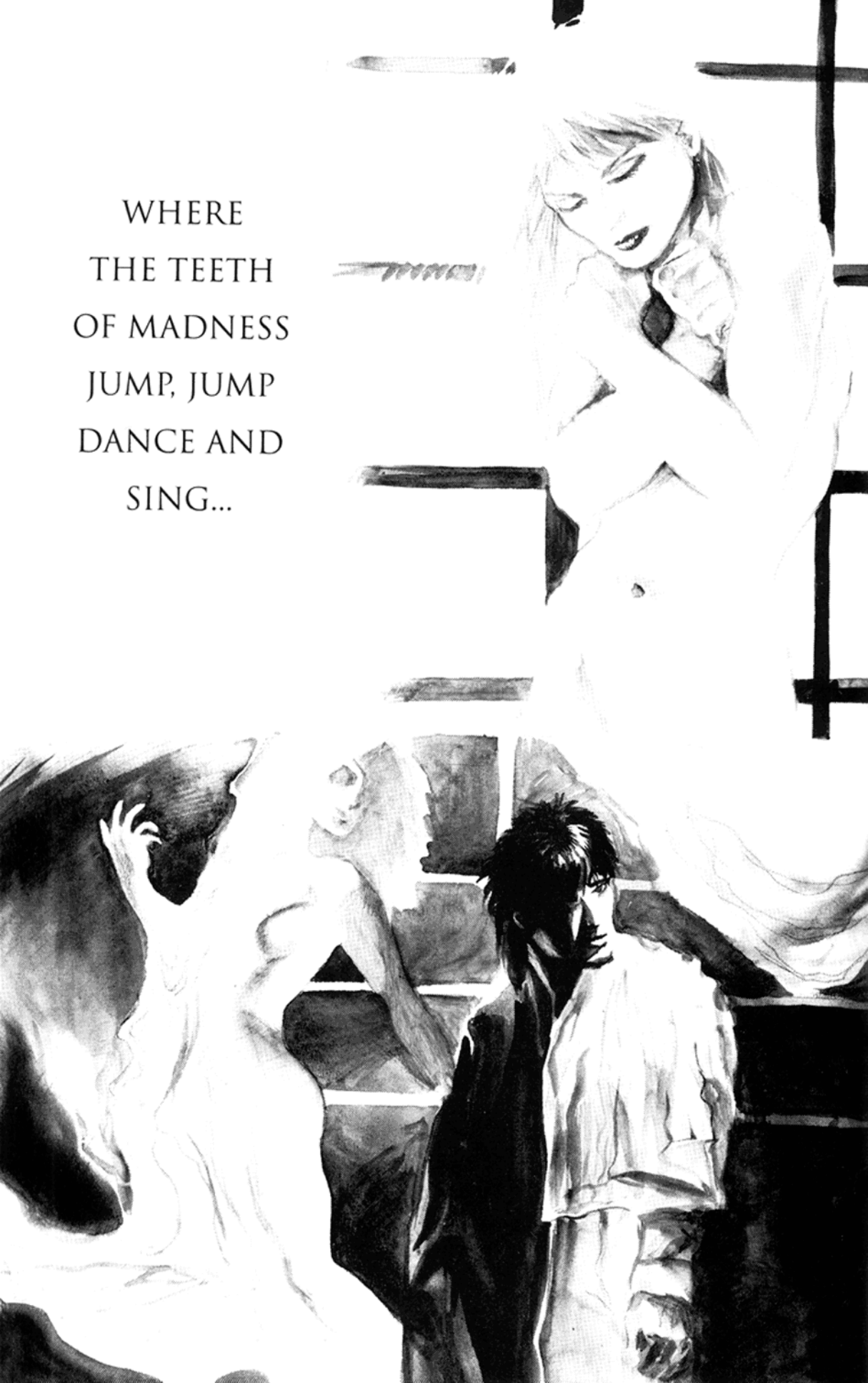
SO, THE CROW SPIRALS DOWN THROUGH A COLLAPSED DREAM AND THE ONLY SOUND HE MAKES IS...

...LIKE A CONCAVE SCREAM


I'VE A PRESENT FOR YOU, SHELLY.
MEOW?
MEOWR?
HIS NAME'S GABRIEL. YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WANTED A CAT.
MEOW?.. MEOW.?.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SHELLY.
MEOWR?.. MEOWR?..
PURRRRR..

SO ERIC, NOW THAT THIS OLD HOUSE IS SEMI-HABITABLE ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE AN HONEST WOMAN OF ME?
HONEY, YOU MISSED A SPOT...
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT ON ME, WISE GUY.
MARRIAGE MARRIAGE MARRIAGE THATS ALL I EVER HEAR!
HEY, WATCH THAT!
OH YEAH? OR WHAT?
OR YOU'RE CUT OFF! PPHHFTT!!
WILL THIS GET ME BACK ON YOUR GOOD SIDE?
ERIC! YOU GOT MY RING!!


OH, ERIC!!
SHELLY.. OOFF..
WE'RE GETTING MARRIED! WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!
IF I SURVIVE THIS...


WHERE
THE TEETH
OF MADNESS
JUMP, JUMP
DANCE AND
SING...

ERIC... HEY, ERIC...
YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS AGAIN, BOY. LET'S GO...

OK, HERE'S WHERE YOU SMILE...
NOW THE ETERNAL LOVE PART...
CLICK
IDIOT.

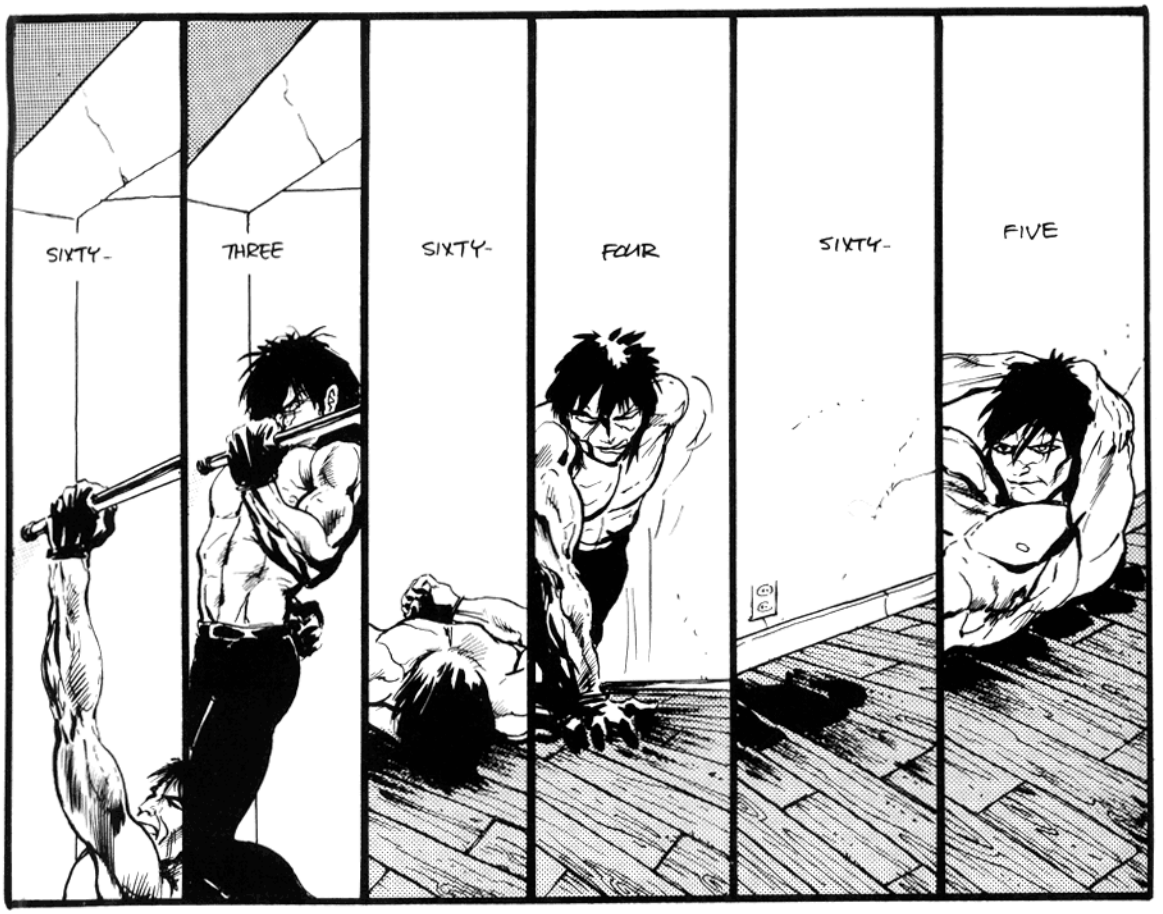
BOOM
NEVER LISTEN.

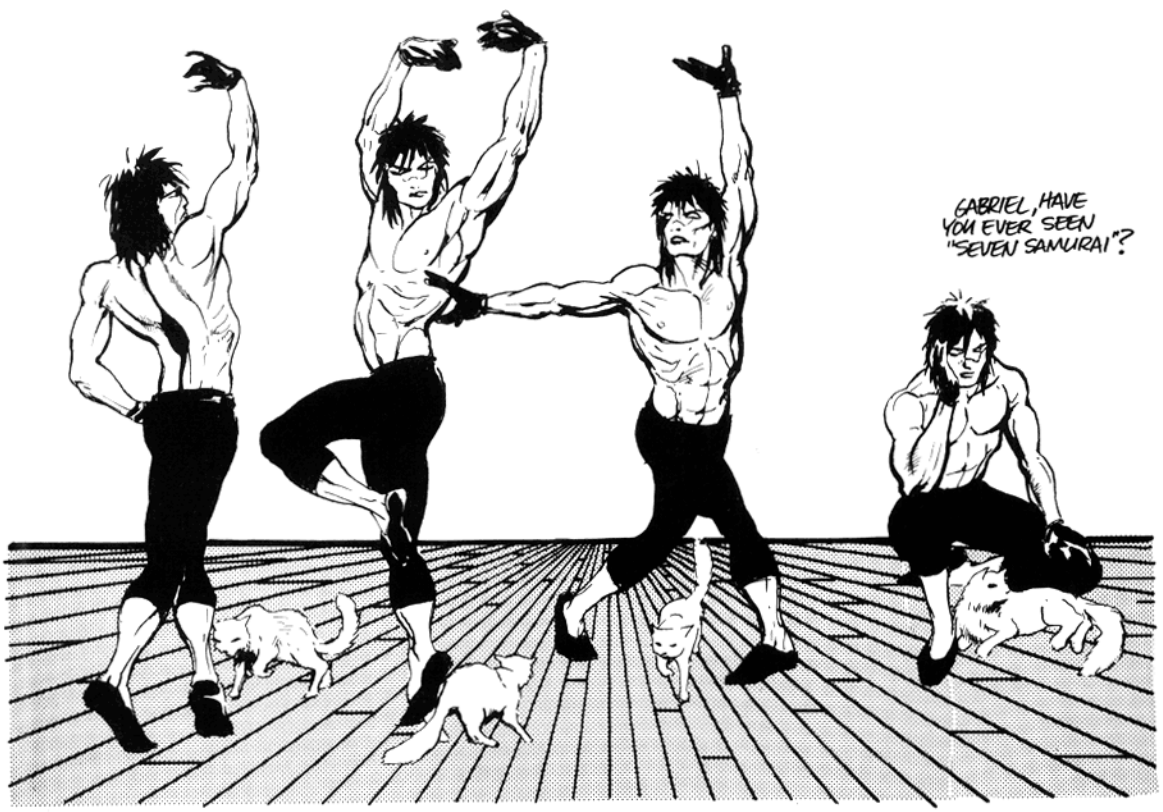
NICE SUIT, EH KID?
J.O'BARR
10

ERIC SCREAMS AND SCREAMS AND POUNDS HIS HEAD AGAINST THE WALL UNTIL PHANTOM FIRE TRUCKS RACE ACROSS HIS VISION.
ALL HE WANTS IS **PAIN.**
PAIN AND **HATE**
YES, HATE.
BUT NEVER **FEAR.** FEAR IS FOR THE ENEMY.
FEAR AND **BULLETS.**

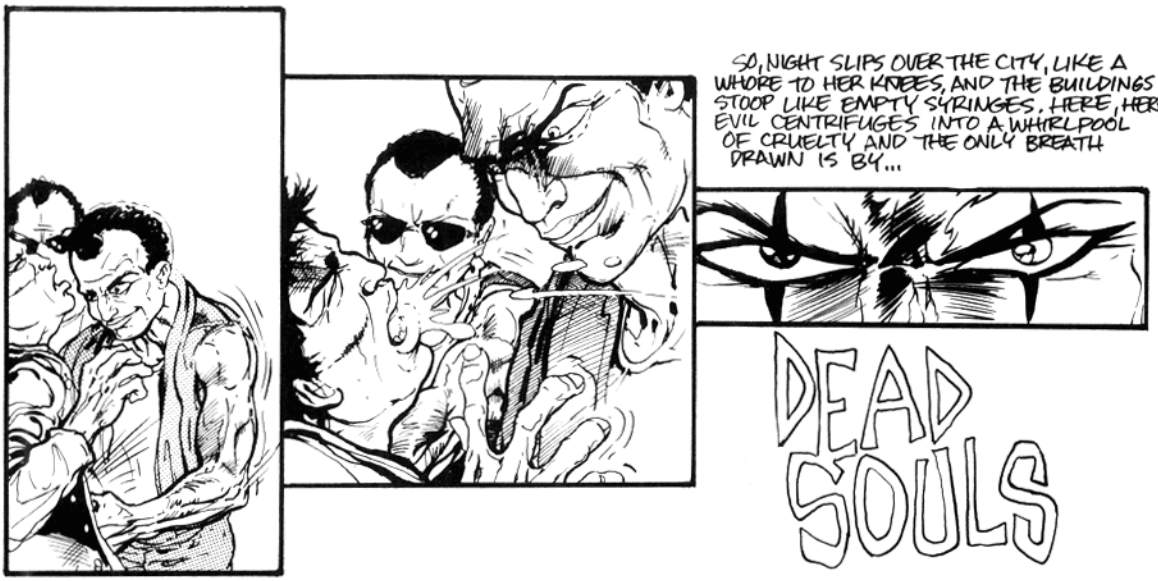
THE CROW

BOOK TWO
FEAR


SIXTY-
THREE
SIXTY-
FOUR
SIXTY-
FIVE


GABRIEL, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN "SEVEN SAMURAI"?

ACROSS TOWN, IN THE BASEMENT OF A BURNED OUT TENEMENT.
NO, NO!! HE WAS JUST BUYIN A PAPER!
QUIT YER CRYIN, RETARD, WE SEEN YA TALKIN' TA PEACE OFFICAH DAVIES. JUST CUZ YAGOT THE DOWNS SYNDRUM DON'T MEAN YA KIN ACT STUPID WITH US...
I DOES BELIEVE HE'S LYIN', SKANK.
I THINK HE ROLLED US FER CHECKIN-IN GREENS MARKET..
NO! NO!
WE GONNA HAFTA CUT YA, RETARD.
I LOVE IT WHEN THEY BEG!
NO! NO! NO! I DIDN'T! I SWEAR!
PLEASE! HE JUST BOUGHT A PAPER!!


SO, NIGHT SLIPS OVER THE CITY, LIKE A WHORE TO HER KNEES, AND THE BUILDINGS STOOP LIKE EMPTY SYRINGES. HERE, HERE EVIL CENTRIFUGES INTO A WHIRLPOOL OF CRUELTY AND THE ONLY BREATH DRAWN IS BY...
DEAD SOULS

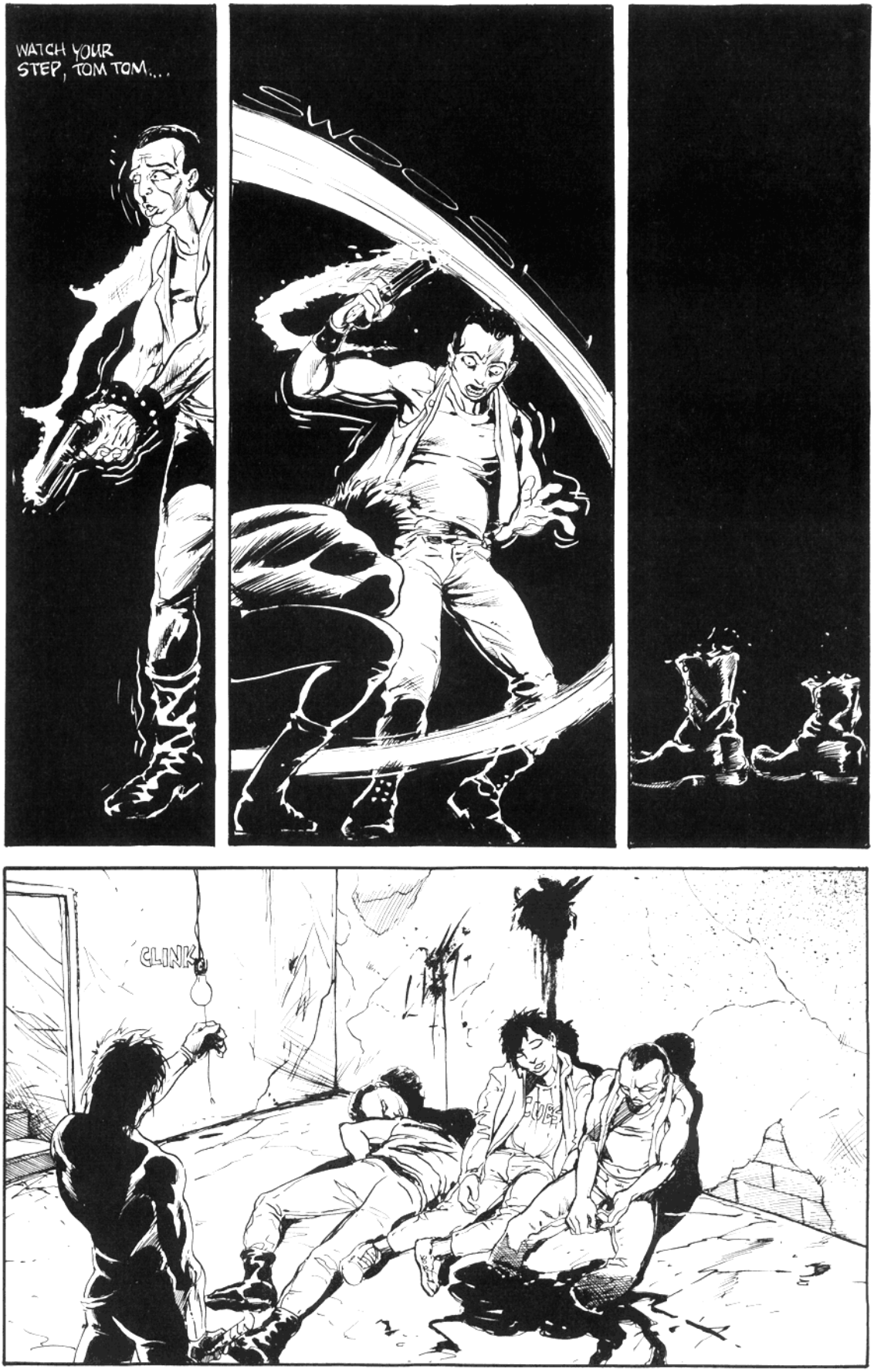
YOU REALLY GET OFF ON THIS, DONTCHA?
YEH, IT GETS MUH BLOOD PUMPIN!
KINDA MAKES YA LOSE YUR HEAD, HUH?
SWOOSSH

WHAT THE...?!
JESUS!! OH, JESUS!!
HELLO, TOM TOM.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
GO FOR THE GUN, THOMAS.
BEDTIME!! LIGHTS OUT!
CLICK
COME ON!! I'LL PLAY YOUR GAME!!
NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP...
BOOM BOOM BOOM
I GOT HIM, I KNOW I GOT HIM...
I PRAY THE LORD MY SOUL TO KEEP.
CRUNCH
IF YOU DIE BEFORE I WAKE...
OH GOD!! JESUS CHRIST!!
JESUS CHRIST...
BOOM BOOM

JESUS CHRIST WALKS INTO A HOTEL...

HE HANDS THE INNKEEPER THREE NAILS AND ASKS...

"CAN YOU PUT ME UP FOR THE NIGHT?"


WATCH YOUR STEP, TOM TOM....
SWOOSH
CLINK

THUNK
THOSE ARE MY BOOTS OVER THERE,
TOM TOM, A YEAR AGO YOU HELPED KILL A MAN AND A WOMAN. THERE WAS NO MONEY BUT YOU TOOK A RING SHE HAD ON.
DO YOU REMEMBER?
A RING? A RING.. YEAH A MAN AND A WOMAN...
YOU'RE HIM, AREN'T YOU??!
I AM.
BUT I SAW YOU DIE...
AS YOU SEE YOUR OWN DEATH BEFORE YOU NOW?
T BIRD WAS ON TOP OF HER...
.... SHE WAS SCREAMING AND CRYING... I WANTED HER TO SHUT UP... I KICKED HER...

SHE SCREAMED AND SCREAMED... AND I KEPT ON KICKIN' HER UNTIL HER FACE WAS ALL BLOODY... AN THEN TBIRD SHOT HER...
...HE SHOT HER IN THE HEAD AN BLOOD SPLASHED ALL OVER MY PANTS...
MY FEET ARE COLD... CAN I HAVE MY BOOTS?
YOU'LL BE ASLEEP IN A MINUTE, TOM TOM. WHERE IS THE RING?
THE RING... THE RING... TBIRD ALWAYS SOLD THAT STUFF DOWN ON GRATIOT... GIDEON'S PAWN... I'M COLD...
CAN I GO TA SLEEP NOW?
SLEEP NOW.
HOW WONDERFUL IS DEATH, DEATH AND HIS BROTHER SLEEP.

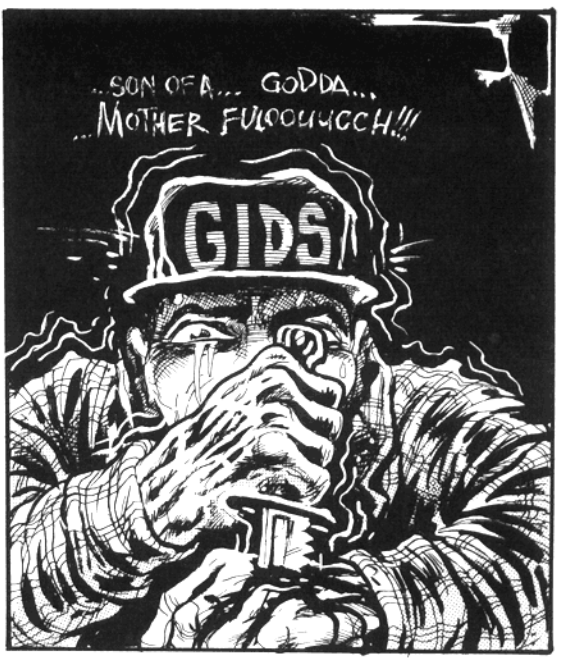
GIDEON RESALE
MONEY LOANED
BOUGHT AND SOLD JEWELRY
GUNS TELEVISIONS GOLD
RARE COINS MUSICAL INSTMT
MOTEL
USA TODAY
ONE WAY
MEANWHILE, INSIDE...
CHRIST, FRIGGIN' RATSO PIMPED ME FOR FORTY AGAIN, THAT LOUSY SCUM...
GIDS
ITEMS HELD FOR 30 DAYS NO EXCE
DO NOT LEAN ON COUNTER
OPEN
KNOK
KNOK
KNOK
HEY, PISS OFF!!! CAN'T YA SEE I'M CLOSED, IDIOT?
GIDS

OPEN
KNOK
KNOK
KNOK
DON'T YOU HEAR SO WELL, DIRTBAG?? I'M CLOSED!!
OPEN
OPEN
WHY YOU FRIGGIN' PUNK...
MR. GIDEON, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME-THING OF MINE.
NO CREDIT
SHELLS
EMPLOYEES ONLY
KLINK TINKLE
LPS 2/100

I'M LOOKING FOR A GIRL'S RING...
YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR A CORONER, PAL...
IT'S AN ENGAGEMENT RING...
I'M COUNTIN' TO THREE AN' I'M GONNA BLOW YOUR HEAD ALL OVER THE WALL.
ONE.
MR. GIDEON, YOU ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.
TWO.
THREE.
SLAP
THUNK
T-BIRD SOLD YOU THE RING ONE YEAR AGO.
ONE MOMENT PLEASE...

ALMOSSST...
EVERY... EVERY THING
T-BIRD BROUGHT
ME'S IN HERE...
SUPER
10W-30
Motor Oil
TURBO TESTED
UNOCAL
MY GOD...

...SHELLY...
...SHELLY...

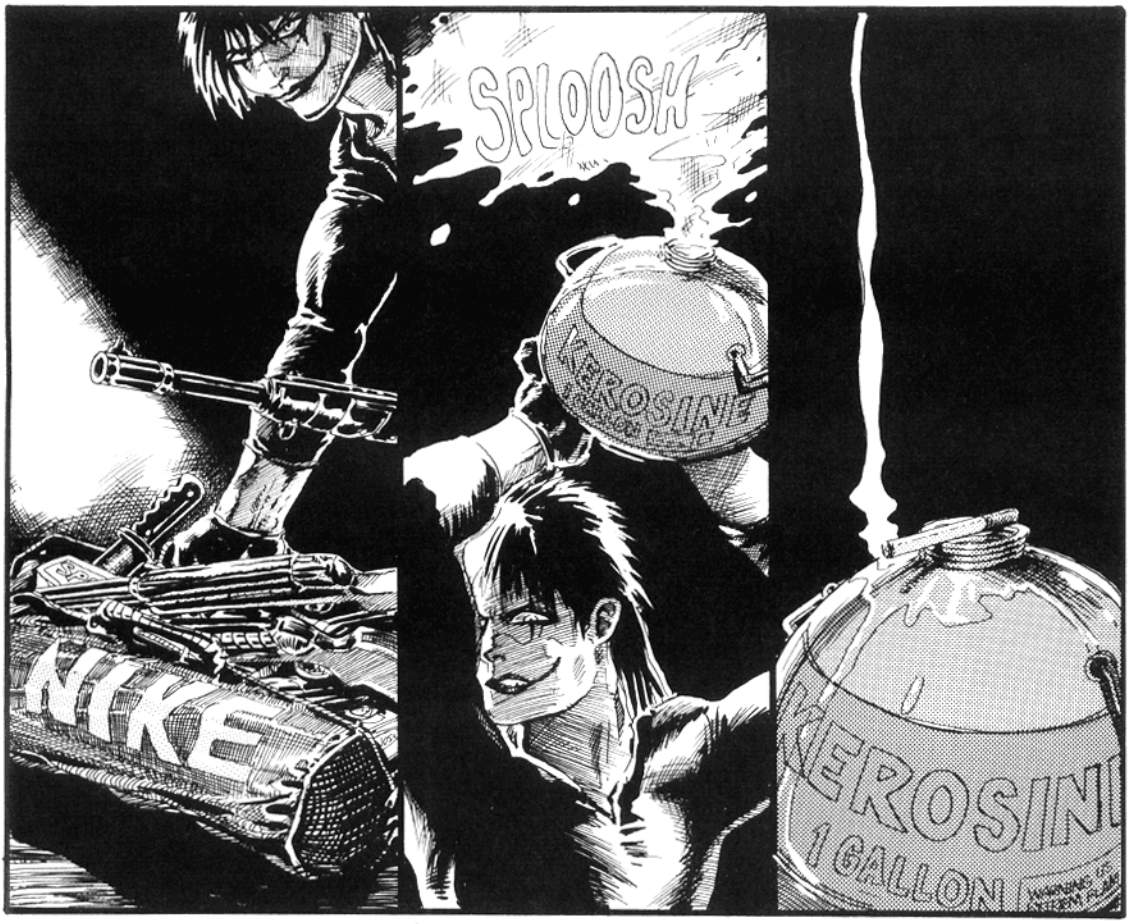

...SON OF A... GODDA...
...MOTHER FUCCUUCCH!!!
GIDS

NO NO NO NO NO
TING

OH, MAN! SHHIIII JEEZUUS!!!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE, PUNK!!!

YEAH!
SKLORK
SURPRISE, SURPRISE...
GID
LOOK WHAT I GOT FOR YA HERE, PUNK
WHY MR. GIDEON, YOU'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR WALTHER...
BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

SO MUCH...
CLICK
...FOR THE SINGLE BULLET THEORY...
KLAK
Gibson
DRIK
DRIK
WHY, MR. GIDEON, I SEE YOU HAVE A LARGE CACHE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS, ALL QUITE LEGAL OF COURSE...
ANY OBJECTIONS TO MY BORROWING, SAY, A DOZEN OR SO?
I DIDN'T THINK SO...
AND IS THAT A KEROSENE HEATER I SMELL?


SPLOOSH
KEROSINE
NIKE
KEROSINE
1 GALLON

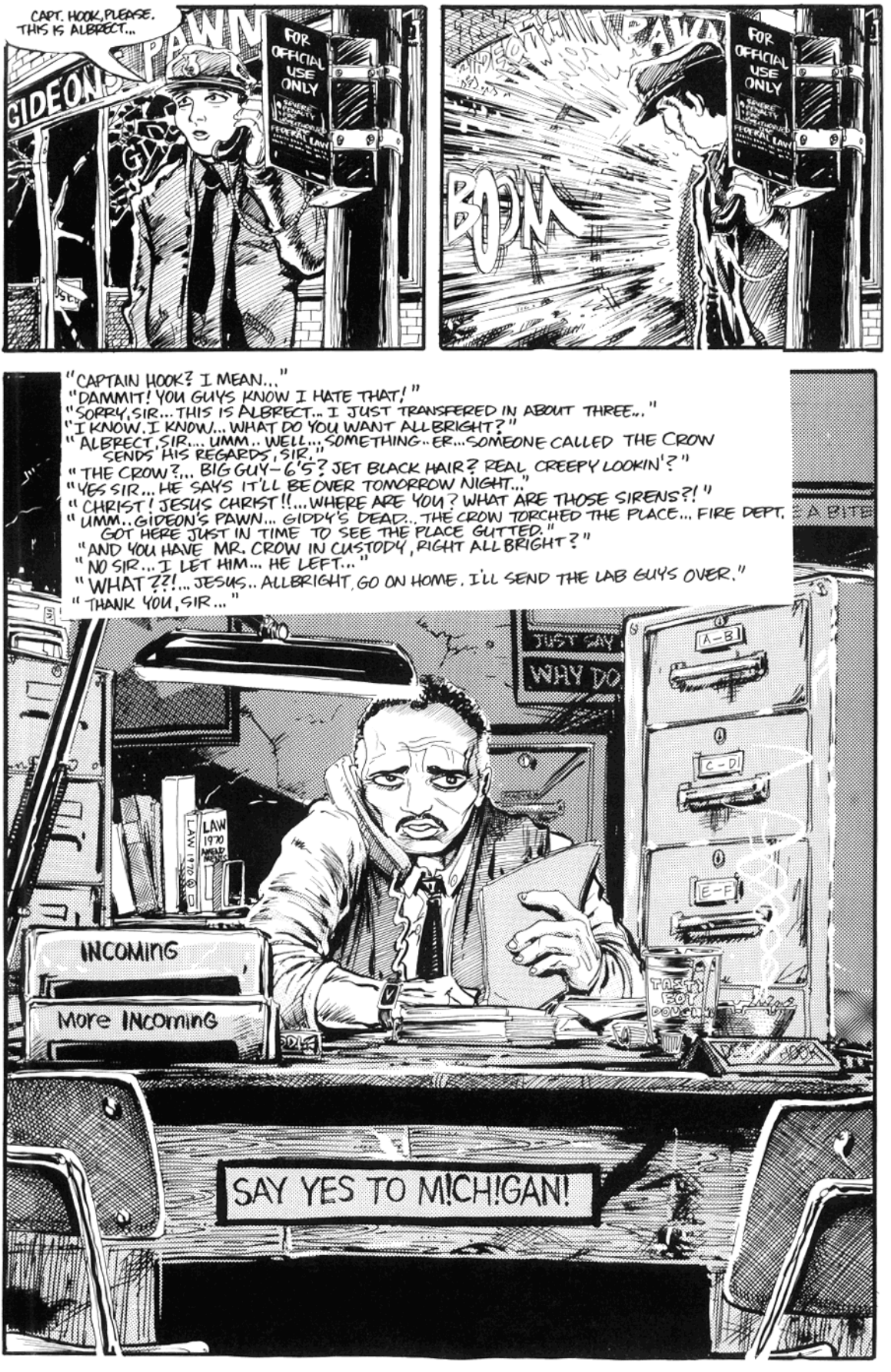
SUBMISSION

FREEZE!!
GO AWAY, BOY. YOU WANT NONE OF THIS.
$150.00
OPEN

MY GOD!! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM???!!
LEAD POISONING.
YOU'RE..UNDER..ARR..EEST...
LOOK AT ME, BOY...
PUT YOUR GUN AWAY... BULLETS DON'T STOP ME... KNIVES DON'T HURT ME... LOOK...
LOOK AT ME!!!
I AM PILOT ERROR, I AM FETAL DISTRESS, I AM THE RANDOM CHROMOSOME...
I AM COMPLETE AND TOTAL MADNESS...
I AM FEAR...

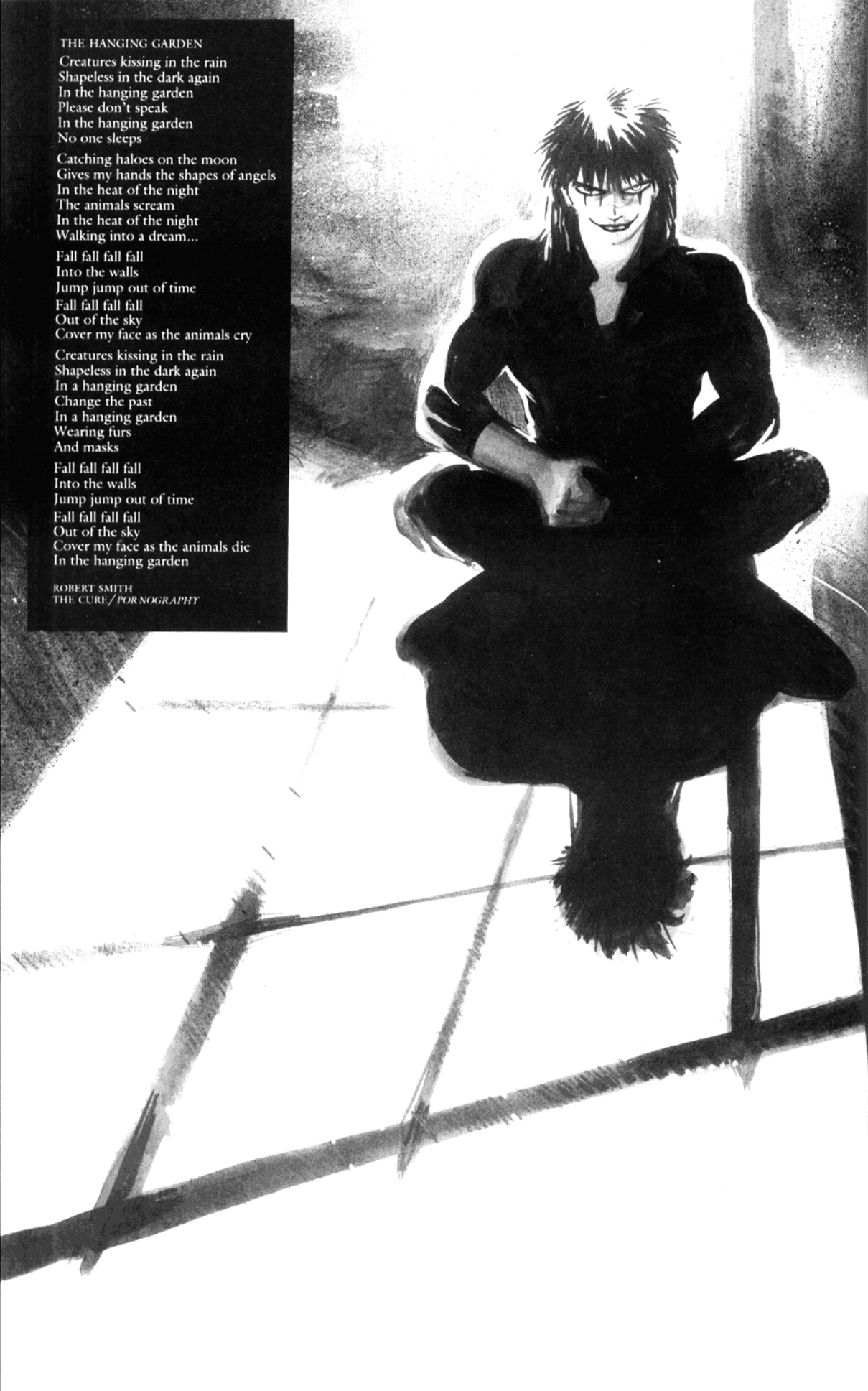
PLEASE... PUT DOWN THE WEAPONS...
OFFICER ALBRECT, I AM GOING THROUGH THAT DOORWAY...
I WILL NOT HURT YOU BUT I AM LEAVING.
SO, SHOOT IF YOU WILL...
GOOD GOD, MAN! MY GUN COULD GO OFF!!
OH, DAMN.

WHAT SHOULD I SAY HAPPENED HERE?
TELL SGT. HOOK THE CROW SENDS HIS REGARDS...
...AND IT ENDS TOMORROW NIGHT.
ALSO, ALBRECT, I'VE SET A BOMB IN THE BACK ROOM.
YOU HAVE ABOUT TWO MINUTES LEFT.
I'VE ALREADY PHONED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.
BOMB?!?
HAVE A NICE LIFE, SON.
BOMB? DID YOU SAY BOMB?
GIDEON?!?!
I'M OUTTA HERE.
ROLF


CAPT. HOOK, PLEASE. THIS IS ALBRECT...
GIDEON
PAWN
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
BOOM
"CAPTAIN HOOK? I MEAN..."
"DAMMIT! YOU GUYS KNOW I HATE THAT!"
"SORRY, SIR... THIS IS ALBRECT.. I JUST TRANSFERED IN ABOUT THREE.."
"I KNOW, I KNOW... WHAT DO YOU WANT ALLBRIGHT?"
"ALBRECT, SIR.... UMM.. WELL..., SOMETHING.. ER... SOMEONE CALLED THE CROW SENDS HIS REGARDS, SIR."
"THE CROW?... BIG GUY - 6'5? JET BLACK HAIR? REAL CREEPY LOOKIN'?"
"YES SIR... HE SAYS IT'LL BE OVER TOMORROW NIGHT..."
"CHRIST! JESUS CHRIST!!... WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT ARE THOSE SIRENS?!"
"UMM.. GIDEON'S PAWN... GIDDY'S DEAD... THE CROW TORCHED THE PLACE... FIRE DEPT. GOT HERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE PLACE GUTTED."
"AND YOU HAVE MR. CROW IN CUSTODY, RIGHT ALLBRIGHT?"
"NO SIR... I LET HIM... HE LEFT..."
"WHAT??!... JESUS.. ALLBRIGHT, GO ON HOME. I'LL SEND THE LAB GUYS OVER."
"THANK YOU, SIR..."
A-B
C-D
E-F
INCOMING
More INCOming
SAY YES TO MICHIGAN!

PERHAPS GOD HAS SOME WISDOM AFTER ALL...
A-B
C-D
E-F

RISE AND SHINE, FUNBOY... I'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS GIFTS FOR YOU...
MOTEL
VACANCY
LEO'S
ADULT
VIDEO



THE HANGING GARDEN

Creatures kissing in the rain
Shapeless in the dark again
In the hanging garden
Please don't speak
In the hanging garden
No one sleeps

Catching haloes on the moon
Gives my hands the shapes of angels
In the heat of the night
The animals scream
In the heat of the night
Walking into a dream...

Fall fall fall fall
Into the walls
Jump jump out of time
Fall fall fall fall
Out of the sky
Cover my face as the animals cry

Creatures kissing in the rain
Shapeless in the dark again
In a hanging garden
Change the past
In a hanging garden
Wearing furs
And masks

Fall fall fall fall
Into the walls
Jump jump out of time
Fall fall fall fall
Out of the sky
Cover my face as the animals die
In the hanging garden

ROBERT SMITH
THE CURE/*PORNOGRAPHY*

ELEGY

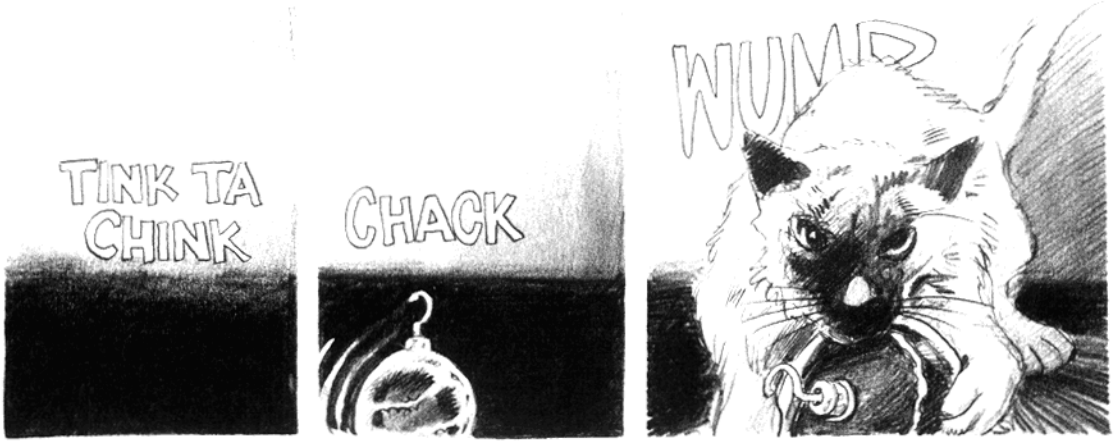
. IRONY & DESPAIR .

IRONY

THE TIDES OF SIN DRAW TIGHTER AND BRIGHTER,
THE HOURS BECOME HEAVIER AND WEIGHTED,
AND THE SHADOWS SMILE, DARK AND WILD.
THIS IS WHEN HOPE AND DESIRE COLLAPSE,
THE ARC OF THE DREAM DESCENDS INTO DESPAIR,
WHEN INNOCENT LOVERS DANCE
LIKE ANGELS ON FIRE.
THIS IS WHEN THE NIGHT COMES DOWN,
A HAMMER ON AN ANVIL,
AND THE ONLY ABSOLUTION ACCEPTED
IS A LEGACY OF BRUTALITY.
A SINGLE NOTE RINGS ON AND ON AND ON.

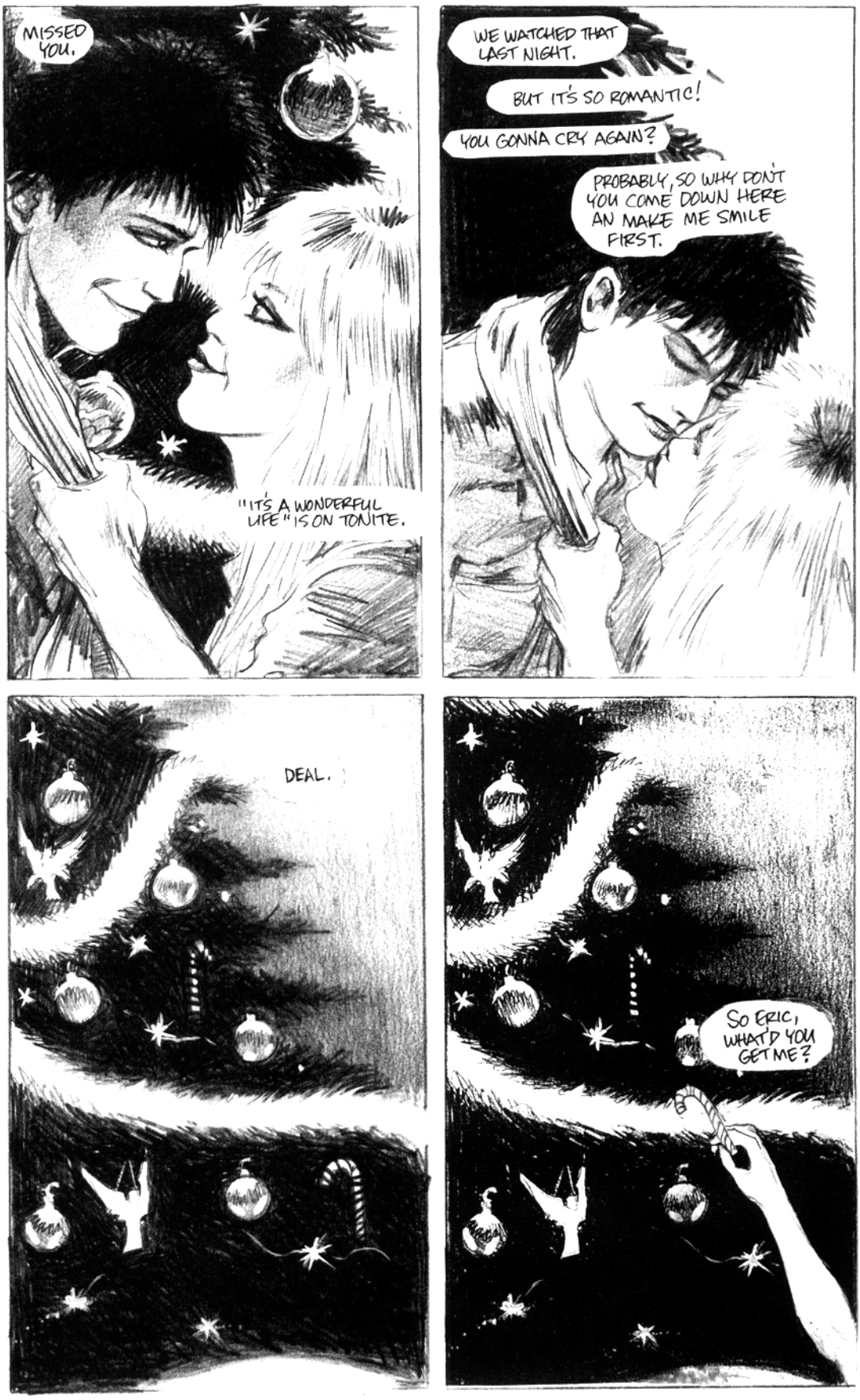
DESPAIR

HERE DWELLS A SNAKE, ONE THOUSAND MILES LONG
COILED, ONE THOUSAND MILES DEEP
EYES LIKE CANDY, IT HAS EYES LIKE CANDY
HARD AND BLUE, BUT SOFT AS KITTENS FEET
OUT OF SIGHT OR IN THE ELEMENT OF LIGHT
IT COULD BE A DEVIL, IT COULD BE AN ANGEL
WITH SPIDERS INSIDE A VISION FROM HELL
ITS SPINE IS A VERTICAL SCREAM
SLOW AS CONCRETE, BLURRED AS A DREAM
IT SPINS ROUND AND DOWN ON AN AXIS OF ATROCITY
FUELED BY INERTIA, DEPTH, RADIUS, AND VELOCITY,
ITS SOUL - A TWISTED WRECKAGE OF DESPAIR AND PAIN
AND THE SPIDERS INSIDE ARE JUST PRAYING FOR RAIN
KILLING TIME KILLING TIME
AND PRAYING FOR RAIN
ONE THOUSAND MILES DEEP



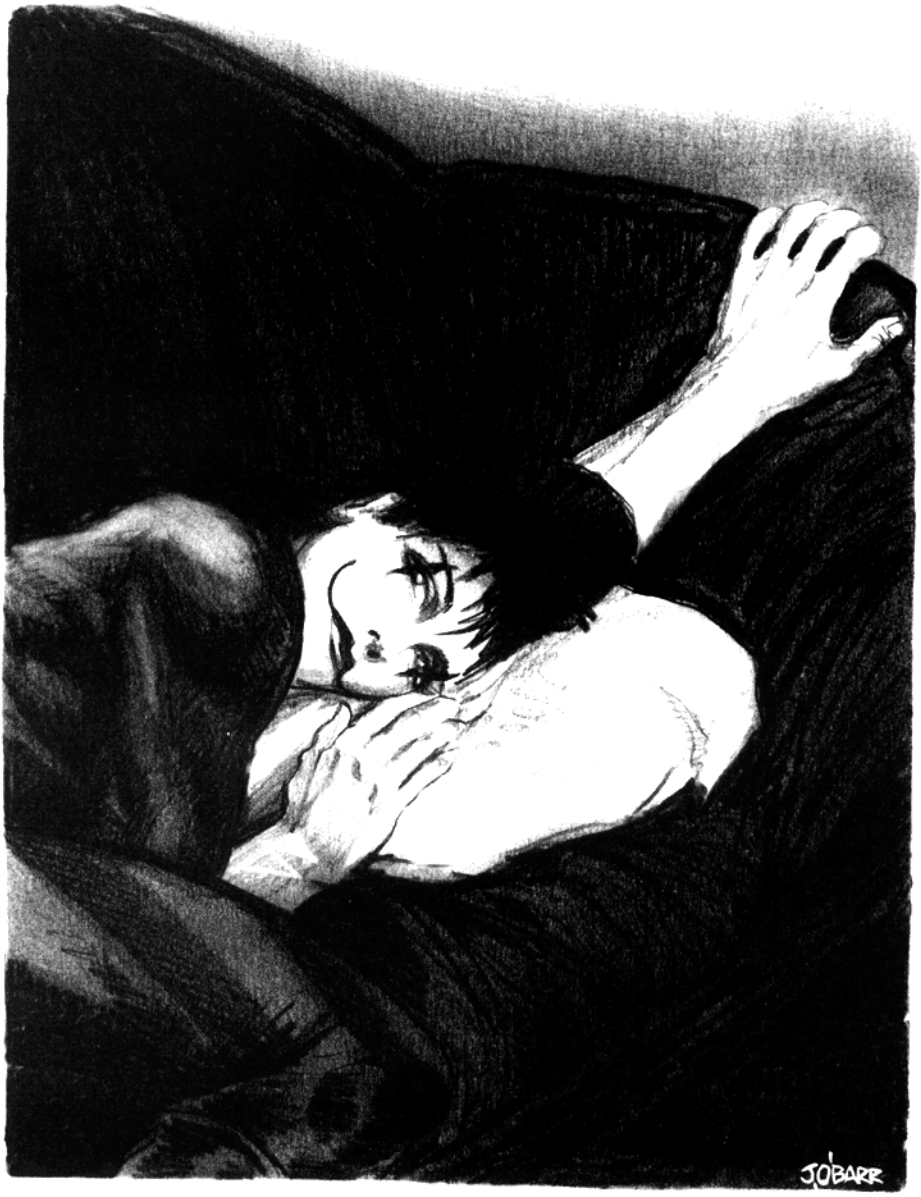
ATMOSPHERE

WON'T ERIC BE SURPRISED?!
WON'T SHELLY BE SURPRISED!
I BURST IN AND WE BOTH YELLED SURPRISE! MERRY CHRISTMAS!
YOU PUT THE TREE UP ALL BY YOURSELF.
YEP, ONLY I DON'T HAVE A STAR FOR THE TOP...
I COULD TAKE ONE OUT OF YOUR EYES.
ERIC, YOU'RE SO SILLY...


MISSED YOU.
"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" IS ON TONITE.
WE WATCHED THAT LAST NIGHT.
BUT IT'S SO ROMANTIC!
YOU GONNA CRY AGAIN?
PROBABLY, SO WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN HERE AN MAKE ME SMILE FIRST.
DEAL.
SO ERIC, WHAT'D YOU GET ME?

CAN'T SAY, IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS YET.
C'MON YOU GRINCH! A HINT AT LEAST...
O.K. IT'S WHITE.
WHITE? BETTER THAN THAT.
ALL RIGHT, IT'S GOT EIGHTEEN WINDOWS.
THE HOUSE!?!? WE GOT THE HOUSE?!

WHAT ABOUT ME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YEAH, WHAT'RE YOU GIVING ME?
KLINK
WELL, FIRST WE'RE GOING TO DRINK A BUNCH OF WINE AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A HOT BATH...
YEAH, THEN WHAT?
THEN I'M GOING TO READ YOU "THE CAT IN THE HAT."
CHINKA
VERY FUNNY.
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE SEEN MY ADAPTION.
BUMP
SHELLY, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.
GO AWAY CAT, YOU MAKE ME SMILE TOO MUCH.



Oú sont les neiges d' antan

Villon

112
ONE WAY
VELOCITY

WELL, I MIGHT BE. MAY I SIT WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT, PRINCESS?
HEY, MISTER! ARE YOU A CLOWN?
SURE! I'M JUS' WAITIN' FOR MY MA.

WHERE MIGHT YOUR MOTHER BE?
UGLY PATRICK DIDN'T HAVE NO MEDICINE SO MA WENT UP TO SEE MR. FUNBOY.
I'M HERE FOR FUNBOY, TOO.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, LITTLE ANGEL?

SHERRI.
THAT'S VERY PRETTY. I KNEW A GIRL NAMED SHELLY, ONCE.

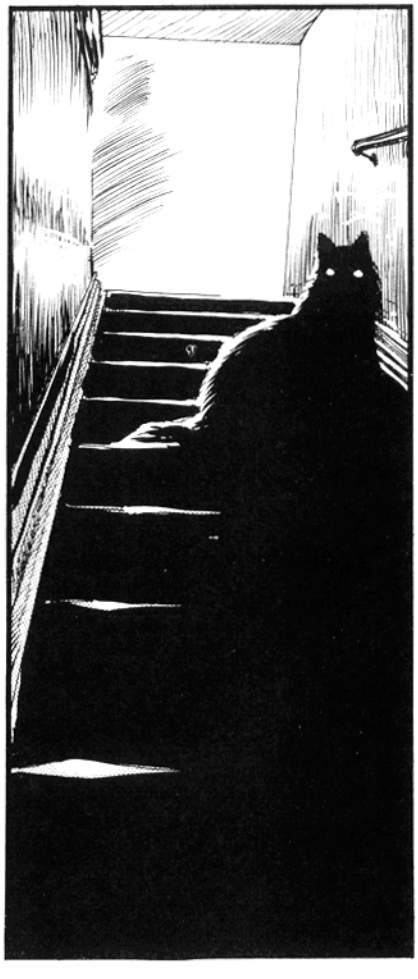
SHE'S GONE TO HEAVEN NOW, THOUGH.
SOMETIMES I THINK I'M BAD AN' GOD HAS SENT ME TO HELL...
THIS ISN'T HELL BUT YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HERE.

HOW COME IT HURTS SO MUCH, MISTER?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
HEY! I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU!
REALLY?!? WHAT?!! WHAT?!!
IT WAS SHELLY'S BUT I THINK SHE'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE IT.
HOLY COW!!
GEEZ MISTER, NOBODY NEVER GIVE ME NUTHIN' BEFORE...
I'LL GO FETCH YOUR MOTHER NOW, HONEY.
YOU COMIN' BACK, MISTER?! PLEASE!!
WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN SHERRI, I PROMISE.

IT'S A RAYMOND CHANDLER EVENING AT THE END OF SOMEONE'S DAY AND I'M STANDING IN MY POCKET AND I'M SLOWLY TURNING GREY
I REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY AND THE YELLOW LEAVES ARE FALLING IN A SPIRAL FROM THE SKY
THERE'S A BODY ON THE RAILINGS THAT I CAN'T IDENTIFY AND I'D LIKE TO REASSURE YOU BUT I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GUY
35
IT'S A RAYMOND CHANDLER EVENING AND THE PAVEMENTS ARE ALL WET AND I'M LURKING IN THE SHADOWS BECAUSE IT HASN'T HAPPENED..
...YET.
SMASH

WELL, HELLO THERE, FUNBOY!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK... SONOFA...
stiff kittens
JAN. 12TH AT CLUTCH CARGOS

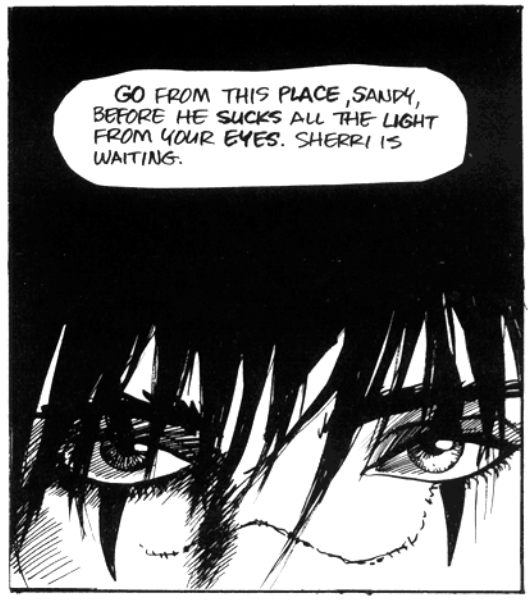
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, PAIN JUNKIE.
I HAVEN'T ASKED YOU ANYTHING.



HEY, IF RAPHAEL SENT YA TO COLLECT YOU KIN TELL 'EM FOR ME..
ARE THE BONES OF YOUR SINS SHARP ENOUGH TO CUT THROUGH YOUR OWN EXCUSES?
MAN, YOU BEST TURN AROUND AN' LEAVE THE WAY YOU COME IN BEFORE SOMETHIN' REAL BAD HAPPENS.
FUN, HE'S SCARIN' ME...
THERE'S A GUN UNDER HIS PILLOW.
I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN TOUCH THAT GUN, FUN BOY.

GET DRESSED, MISS SKIN. BEFORE THE SPACE BETWEEN US TURNS INTO TIGERS.
GET OUT, SANDY. I'LL HANDLE THIS JOKER.

COME HERE, GIRL.
I'M SCARED.


GO FROM THIS PLACE, SANDY, BEFORE HE SUCKS ALL THE LIGHT FROM YOUR EYES. SHERRI IS WAITING.

MOTHER IS THE NAME FOR GOD IN THE LIPS AND HEARTS OF ALL CHILDREN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I...I...

I'VE SOME FRIENDS OUTSIDE TO ESCORT YOU DOWN. GO.

SO, FUN BOY, DO YOU HAVE A PULSE OR ARE YOU A JUNKYARD OF MEAT AND WIRE?
WHAT LAW OF PHYSICS HOLDS YOUR ATOMS TOGETHER?
SLAM

PAL, SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH YOU..

ATROCITY HAS THAT EFFECT ON ME.

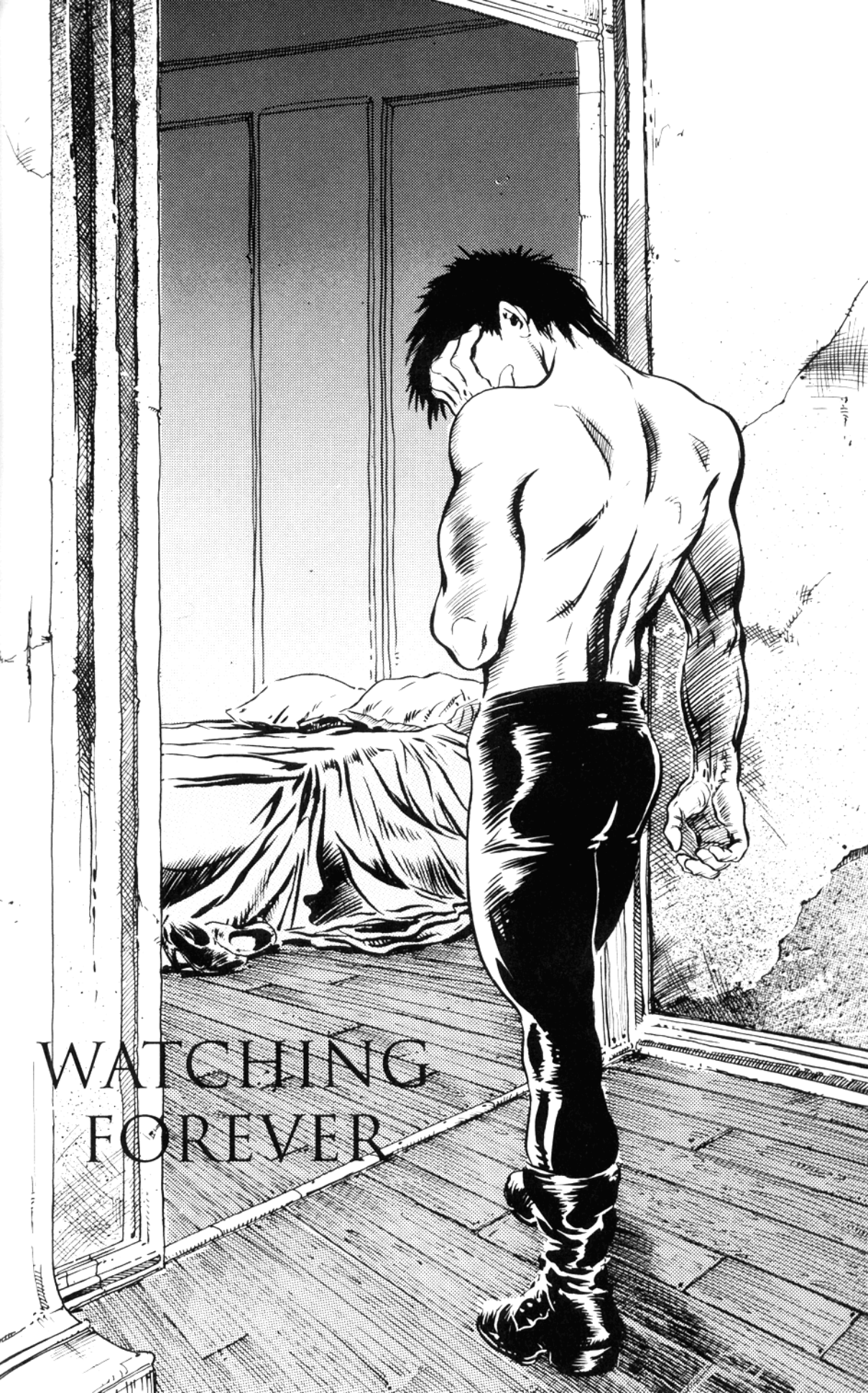
WELL BIG GUY, I'M ON A SERIOUS NOD SO IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME I AINT GONNA BE MUCH HELP..
DO I EVEN KNOW YOU?

TRACK MARKS AND YELLOW EYES. HE'S DEFINITELY A JUNKIE, BUT HIS TEETH AREN'T GREY AND HIS SKIN'S CLEAN... PROBABLY MORPHINE.

YOU GONNA LECTURE ME OR WHAT?

AND THE REMNANT WERE SLAIN WITH THE SWORD OF HIM THAT SAT UPON THE HORSE, WHICH SWORD PROCEEDED OUT OF HIS MOUTH:
AND ALL THE FOWLS WERE FILLED WITH THEIR FLESH.
SO YOU'RE THE CRAZY GHOST MAN THAT DONE IN TIN AN' TOP AN' SANCHEZ, EH? HEARD TOM TOM AINT SAYIN' MUCH, NEITHER.
MAN I WAS THERE WHEN T-BIRD SHOT YOU DEAD SQUARE IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD... TWICE.
CHRIST, THE GUN WAS SO CLOSE YOUR HAIR STARTED ON FIRE...
AND I SAW THE DEAD, SMALL AND GREAT, STAND BEFORE GOD...
I SAW THE BLOOD OF CHRIST ON THEIR SKINS.

OH MAN!! DON'T TAKE MY DOPE!! TAKE THE ROCK AN' THE MONEY BUT NOT MY DOPE!!!
MORPHINE.
YOU HAVE THREE VIALS. I'LL TAKE ONE AND LEAVE YOU THE REST...
OH, WHAT A KIND SOUL YOU ARE...
THE GIN MILL!!!
CRUNCH
BE THERE AT MIDNIGHT... BRING SOME FRIENDS... WE'LL HAVE A PARTY!!
... AND FUNBOY, DON'T BE HAPPY... WORRY.

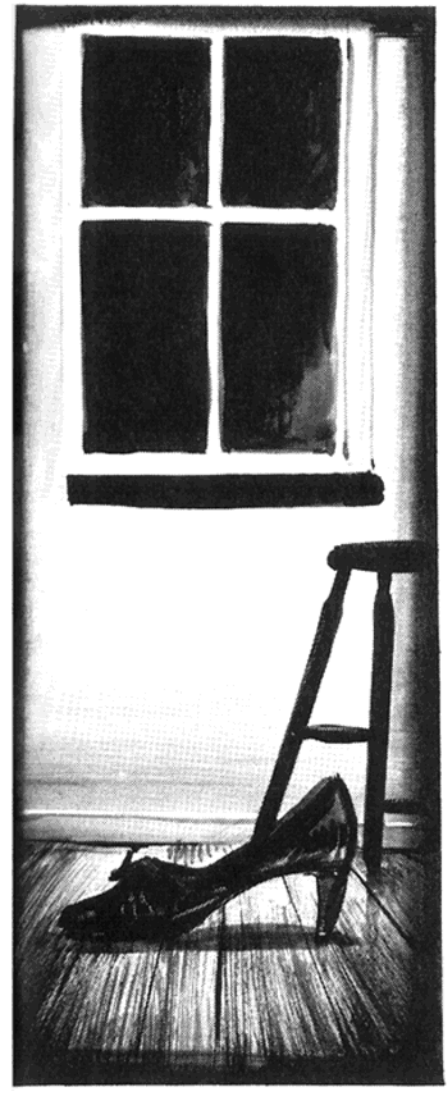

WATCHING
FOREVER

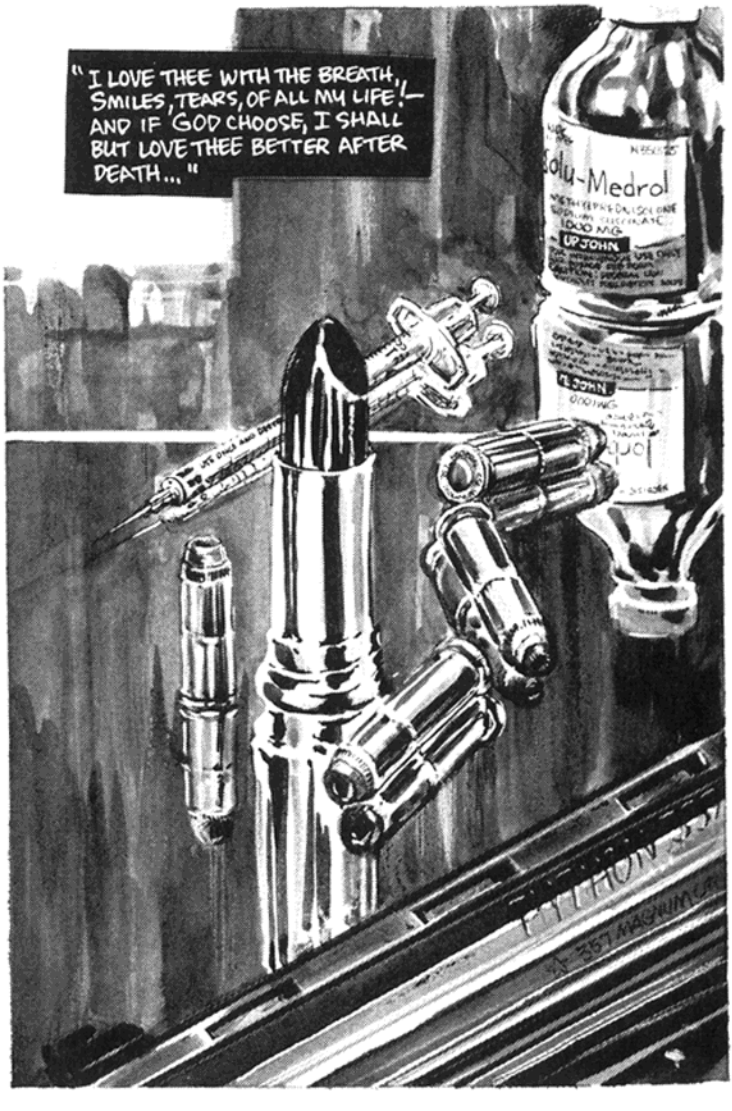
ERIC, HEY ERIC...
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO IN THERE.
THIS PLACE HURTS WORST OF ALL DOESN'T IT?
YOU WERE CLOSEST HERE, WEREN'T YOU?
STICK THE KNIFE IN.
REMEMBER THE SMELL OF HER HAIR?

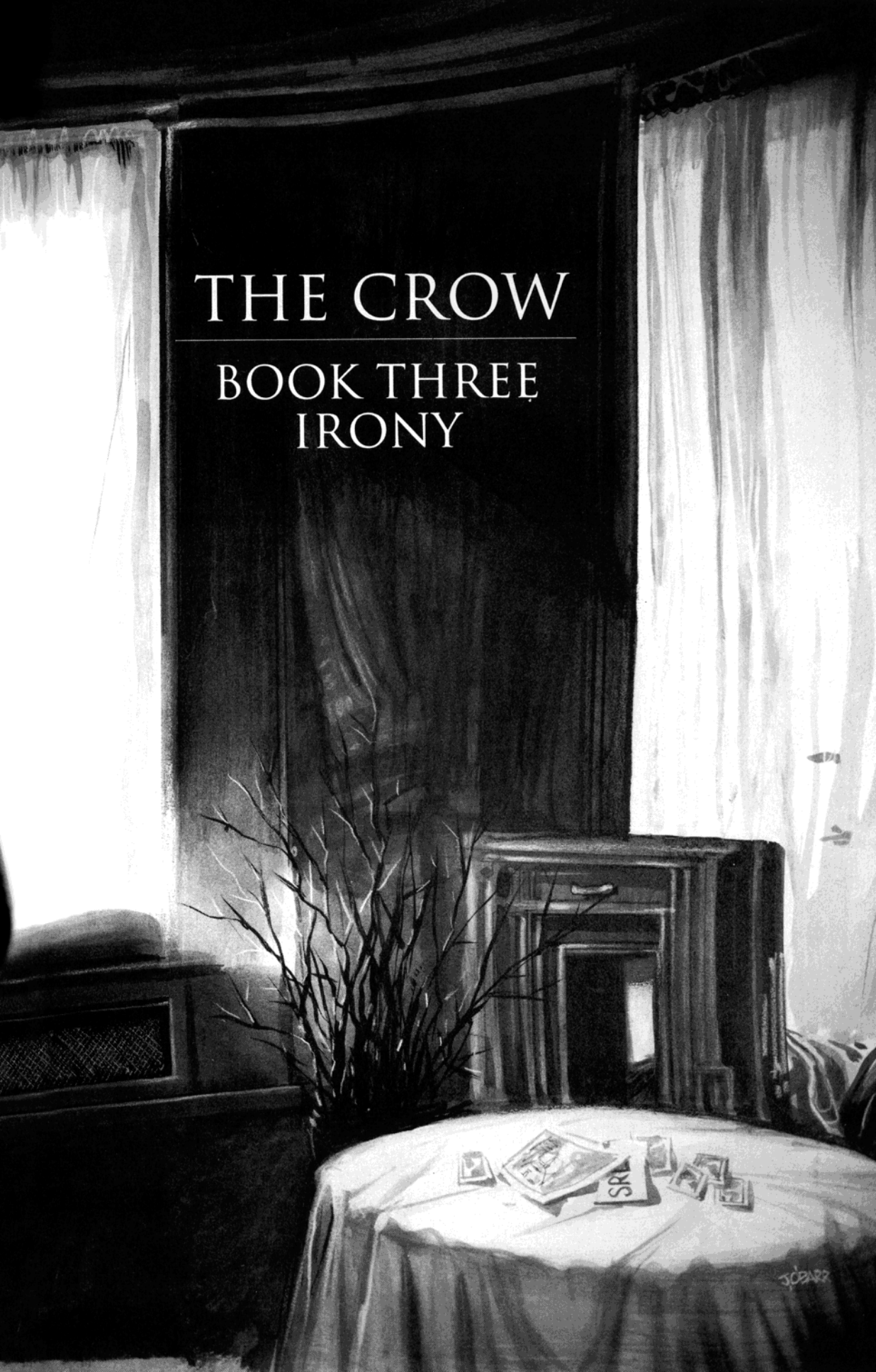
LOVE AND TRUST AND INNOCENCE AND RESPECT.
FOREVER AND EVER.
HURTS MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY, DOESN'T IT?
Break it off.
SHE USED TO HUG YOU SO HARD YOUR RIBS HURT.
YOU WERE THE LUCKIEST MAN ALIVE WEREN'T YOU, ERIC?
C'MON, ERIC... DON'T DO THIS.

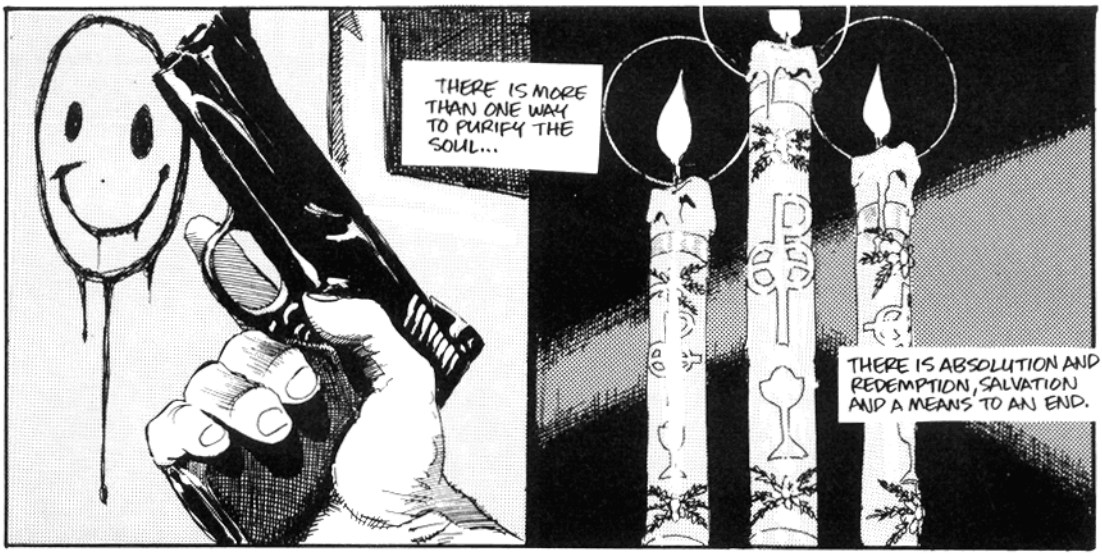
REMEMBER THE SOFT MORNING SUN PLAYING ACROSS HER WHITE SKIN...
...SHINING OFF THAT GOLDEN HAIR
CHRIST, SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL... SO SWEET AND KIND. SHE WAS PERFECT...
BREATHTAKING.
REMEMBER THE LITTLE LOVE NOTES SHE'D LEAVE YOU ON THE 'FRIDGE?
Deeper.
REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO WAKE UP AT NIGHT AND JUST WATCH HER SLEEP?
Twist it.

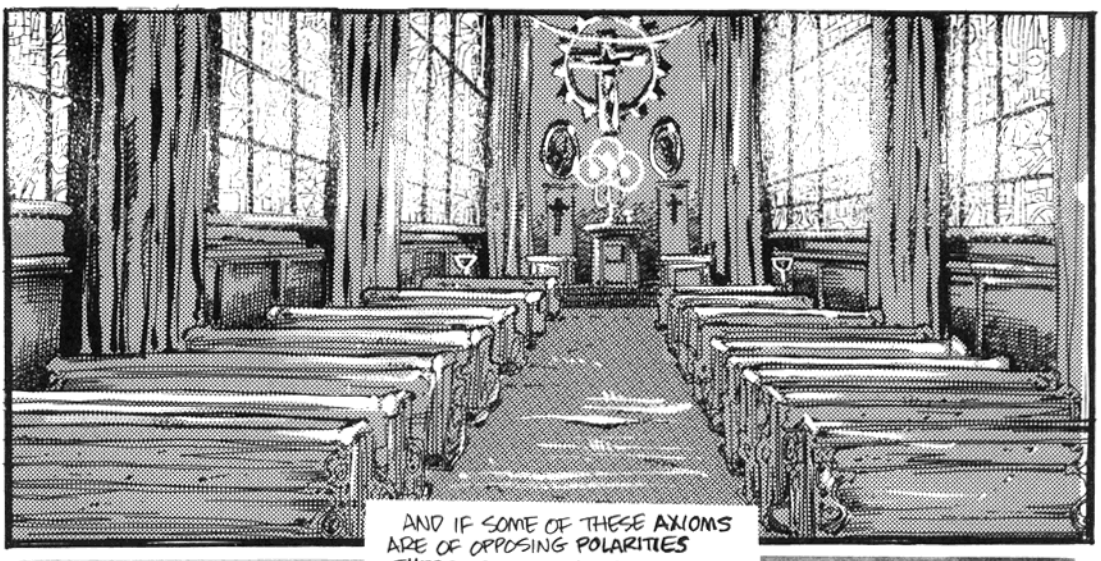
WHY DO YOU DO THIS TO YOURSELF?

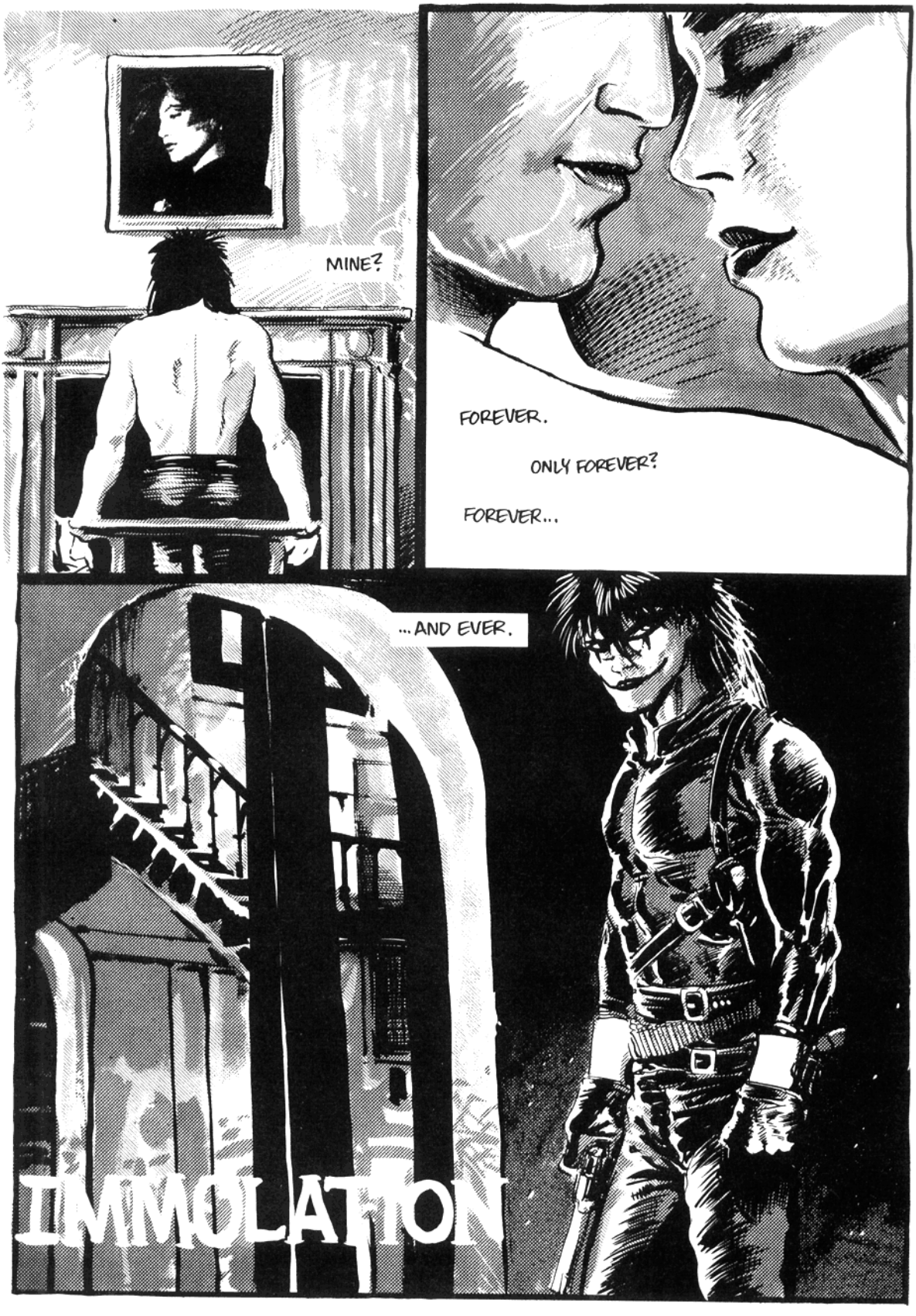



"I LOVE THEE WITH THE BREATH, SMILES, TEARS, OF ALL MY LIFE!— AND IF GOD CHOOSE, I SHALL BUT LOVE THEE BETTER AFTER DEATH..."
Solu-Medrol
UPJOHN
PYTHON
357 MAGNUM


THE CROW
BOOK THREE
IRONY


THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO PURIFY THE SOUL...
THERE IS ABSOLUTION AND REDEMPTION, SALVATION AND A MEANS TO AN END.


AND IF SOME OF THESE AXIOMS ARE OF OPPOSING POLARITIES THERE IS, AT LEAST, SOME CON-SOLATION IN THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE A COMMON GROUND.


MINE?
FOREVER.
ONLY FOREVER?
FOREVER...
...AND EVER.
IMMOLATION

THE
GIN
MILL
TOOTY
MR.
BIZ
FUN
BOY

WELL, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU CALL THAT?
CAN FUN BOY COME OUT AND PLAY?
THE GIN MILL
SLAM
HEY BOYS, THIS HERE'S THE GUY THROWIN' THE PARTY.
CIGARETTES
RESTROOMS
SO, THE VAMPIRE DOES SHOW UP.

READY FOR YUR SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON, PAL?
YES, I'VE COME TO KNEEL AND WORSHIP... THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ALTAR...
IN THE CHURCH OF PAIN...
KIN YOU BELIEVE THIS GUY, FUNBOY?
HE GOTTA BE JOKIN' ME...
WANT ME TA CAP 'EM NOW, FUN??
NAW, LET 'EM RAMBLE ON FER A MINUTE OR SO.

SEVEN BLACKBIRDS IN A TREE, COUNT THEM AND SEE WHAT THEY BE.
ONE FOR SORROW TWO FOR JOY
THREE FOR A GIRL FOUR FOR A BOY
FIVE FOR SILVER SIX FOR GOLD
SEVEN FOR A SECRET THATS NEVER BEEN TOLD.
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.

I'LL PUT A STOP TA THIS RIGHT QUICK, FUN BOY...
OH, BARKEEP, WOULD YOU HOLD ONTO THIS FOR ME 'TILL I ASK FOR IT?
WHOOSH
WHY, THANK YOU, SIR.
TAKE HIM OUT!!

BECAUSE I COULD NOT STOP FOR DEATH— HE KINDLY STOPPED FOR ME—
THE CARRIAGE HELD BUT JUST OURSELVES— AND IMMORTALITY.
O.K. BOYS, LETS DO IT.

BOOM
WE'RE NOT DONE PLAYING YET, ARE WE?

BOOM
HE'S GOTTA BE WEARIN' A VEST!! SOMEBODY GET A HEAD SHOT IN!!
DAMN! T.J. GOT ONE DEAD SQUARE!
CAN'T ANYBODY HIT HIM IN THE HEAD?!?
KLINK
KLIC
KLAK
GODDAMN! HE AINT MISSED ONCE!
SOMEBODY TAKE HIM DOWN! HE'S ONLY ONE GUY!!!

CHAK
SO!! THE GHOST DOES BLEED, AFTER ALL!
DEATH, LIKE VIRTUE, HAS ITS DEGREES...
MARTYRDOM IS NOW THE PRICE OF SALVATION.
CLIK KLAK
ACHOOM
AND HE WAS CLOTHED IN A VESTURE DIPPED IN BLOOD...
BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
IT APPEARS, FUNBOY, THAT THE PARTY HAS ENDED...

NOT WEARIN' A VEST ARE YA, CASPER? ..DON'T MATTER NO WAYS.
I DONE WHAT I DONE AN' I AINT SORRY.
MAN, I DONE WORSE! KILT THIS WHOLE FAMILY UP IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS WHEN PADDY PIMPED ME ON A KEE...
TELL YA THIS PAL: SHE WAS REAL HOT, YOUR GIRL...
...EVEN WITH HALF HER HEAD BLOWD OFF...
DIDN'T BOTHER ME NONE, EITHER, DOIN' HER LIKE THAT...
WHO EVER FIGHTS MONSTERS SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT IN THE PROCESS HE DOES NOT BECOME A MONSTER. FUN BOY, GO FIND T-BIRD, I'M EAGER TO BE DONE WITH THIS...

GOOD NIGHT

The rabbits play no more,
    The little birds are weary,
The buttercups are folded up —
    Good night, good night, my dearie.

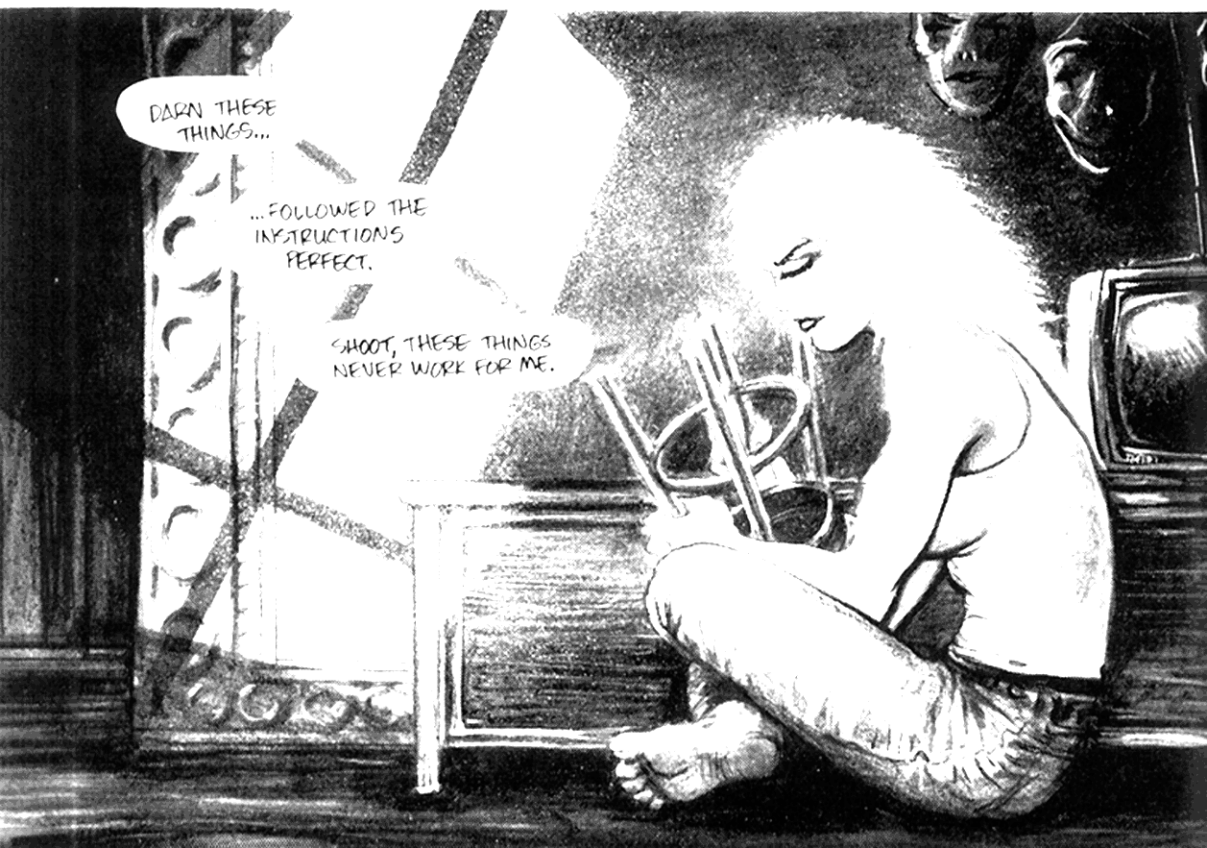
The children in the country,
    The children in the city,
Go to their beds with nodding heads —
    Good night, good night, my pretty.

— Rose Fyleman

GO, FUNBOY. GO AND FETCH T-BIRD. YOU KNOW WHERE TO MEET ME?
THE FIELD? ... BY THE OLD FACTORY?
YES, THE ROAD BY THE FIELD. YOU REMEMBER.
GO... AND DON'T MAKE ME COME AFTER YOU, FUNBOY.
I WILL HURT YOU.
A LOT. AND SLOWLY.
AINT GOT NO-WHERE TO RUN. 'LEAST NOT FROM YOU, ANYWAYS.
YOU GONNA KILL ME THERE, AINT YA?
FUNBOY, YOU WERE DEAD THE MOMENT YOU TOUCH-ED THAT GIRL.
PROMISE ME YOU'LL MAKE IT QUICK AN' CLEAN.
YES, FOR YOU I PROMISE. NOT T-BIRD.

ONE HOUR. NO LONGER.
I'M A JUNKIE BUT I AIN'T NO JUDAS. WE'LL BE THERE.

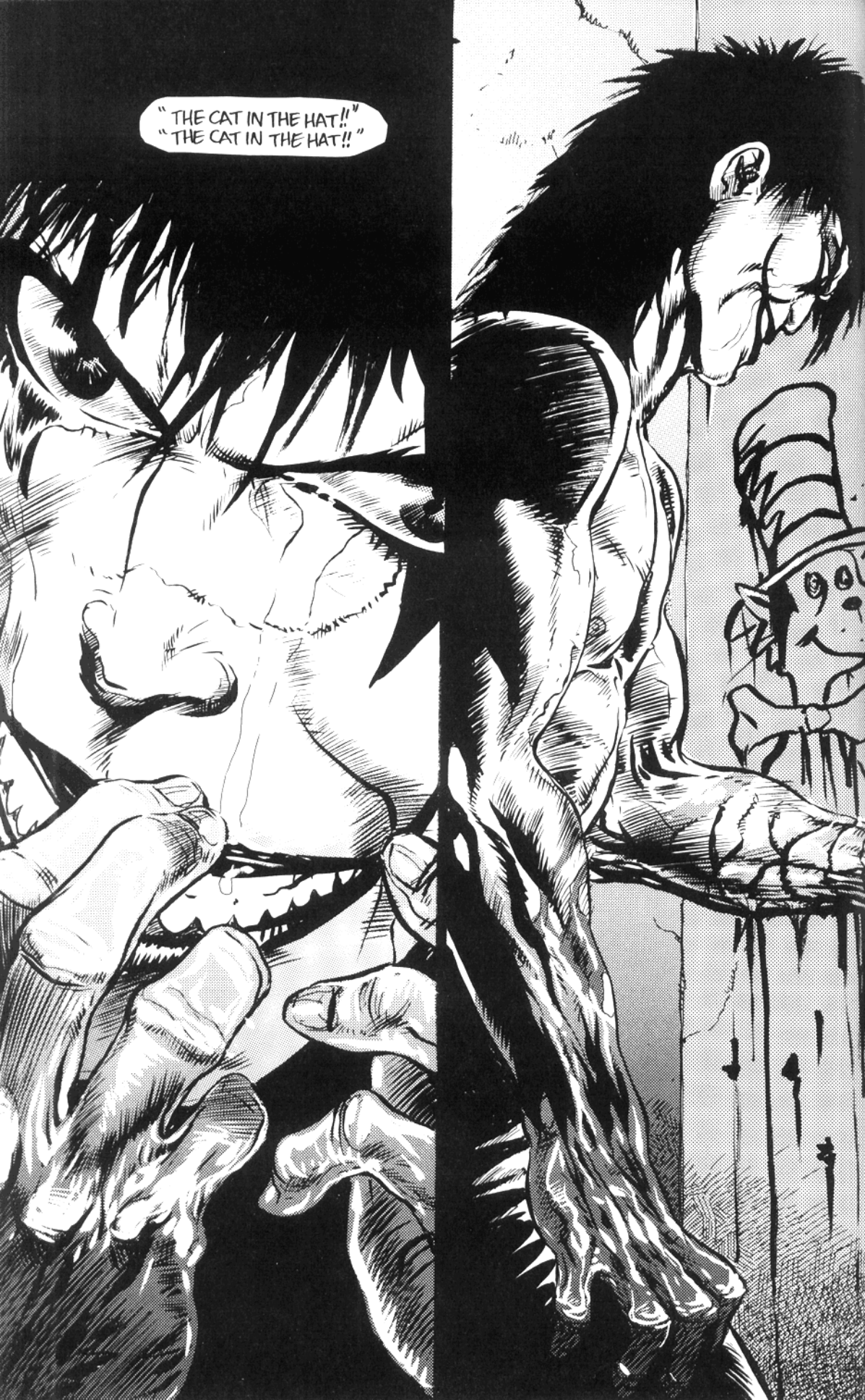
GOD, YOU BASTARD.
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO HER?
HOW COULD YOU MAKE SOMETHING SO SOFT AND INNOCENT AND BEAUTIFUL AND THEN DESTROY IT?
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?
CLINK
HOW COULD YOU MAKE HER SUFFER LIKE THAT?
YOU BASTARD.


DARN THESE THINGS...
...FOLLOWED THE INSTRUCTIONS PERFECT.
SHOOT, THESE THINGS NEVER WORK FOR ME.

ERIC CAN FIX IT. HE'S SO GOOD AT THIS STUFF.
ERIC!! I DIDN'T HEAR...
SSHHH.
ERIC, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU O.K.?

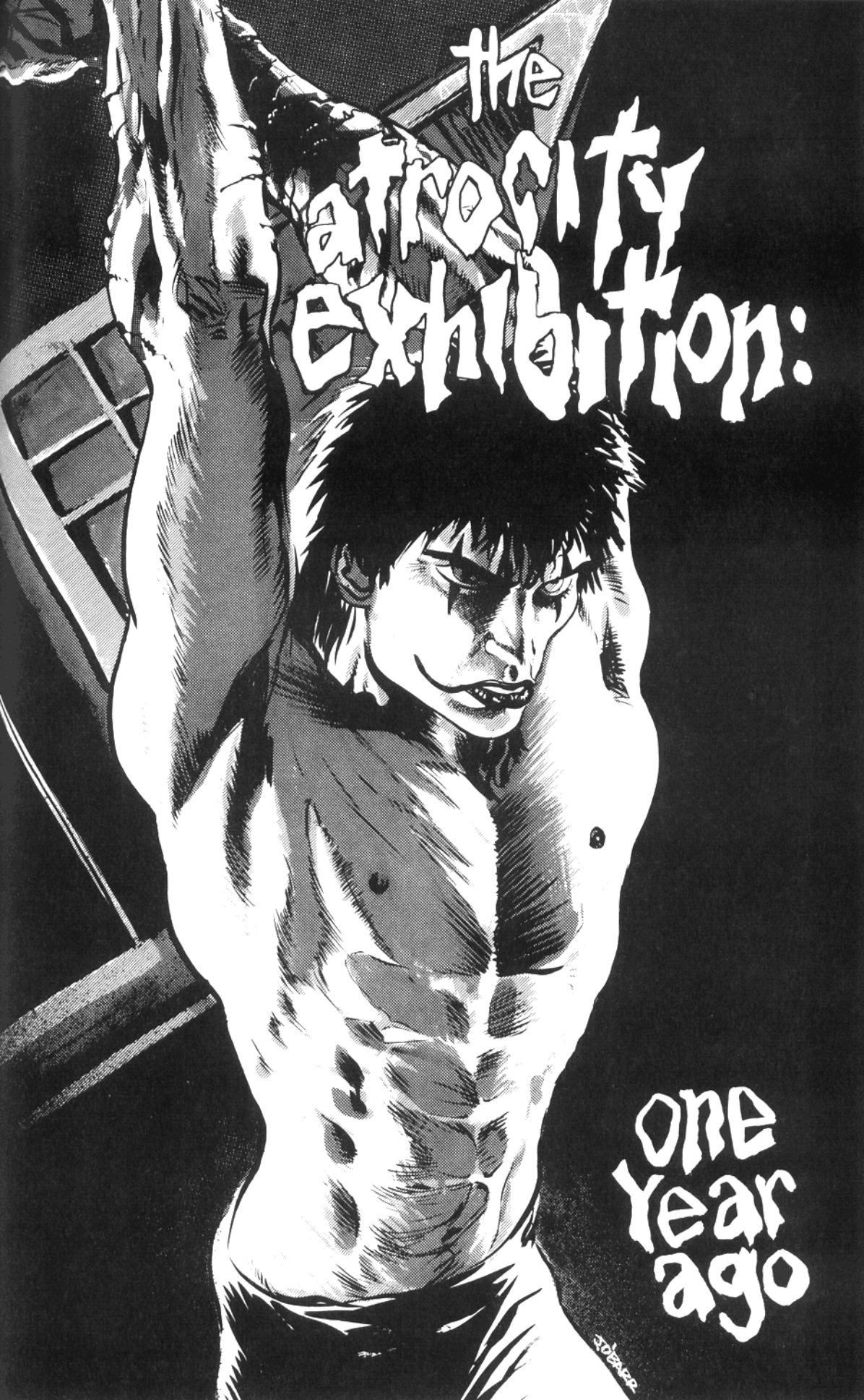
NOTHING'S WRONG. I JUST WANT TO LOOK AT YOU.
ARE YOU SURE YOURE O.K.?
GOD, YOURE SO BEAUTIFUL.
ERIC!
SHELLY, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH THAT IT HURTS MY HEART WHEN I'M AWAY.
ERIC, I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY, TOO.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT SCARES ME.
WERE SOMETHING, HUH?
YEP.

CLACK


"THE CAT IN THE HAT!!"
"THE CAT IN THE HAT!!"

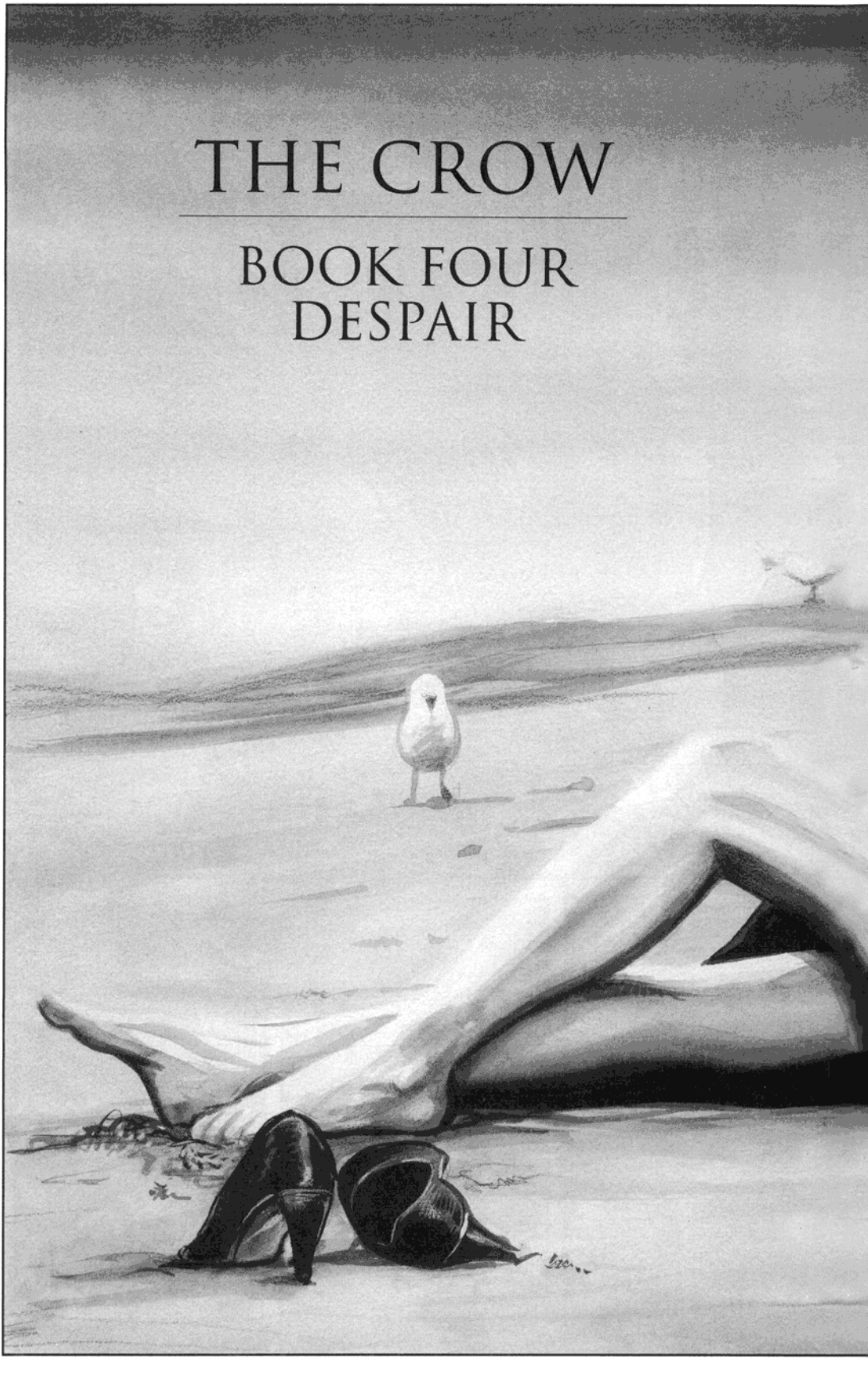
GO AHEAD, MISSY—KEEP SPLASHING... I'VE GOT THIS BIG OL' CUP AND SOME ICE COLD TAP WATER...
YOU WOULDN'T DARE.
MIGHTY SURE OF YOURSELF AIN'T YOU?
I'M A WOMAN.
SO, WHERE ARE WE GOING TO CELEBRATE OUR ENGAGEMENT?
I THOUGHT WE'D GO DANCING, HAVE A PICNIC ON THE BEACH, WATCH THE SUN GO DOWN, FOOL AROUND.
NO WAY!!
I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING.

GREAT! THAT GIVES US A FEW HOURS TO KILL!!
OH NO YOU DON'T.
DON'T EVEN THINK IT.
ERIC! TWO PEOPLE CAN'T FIT IN HERE!
I'M SERIOUS!
HEH HEH.
SPLASH
O.K. WISEGUY, YOU'RE MOPPING THAT— OOHHH!

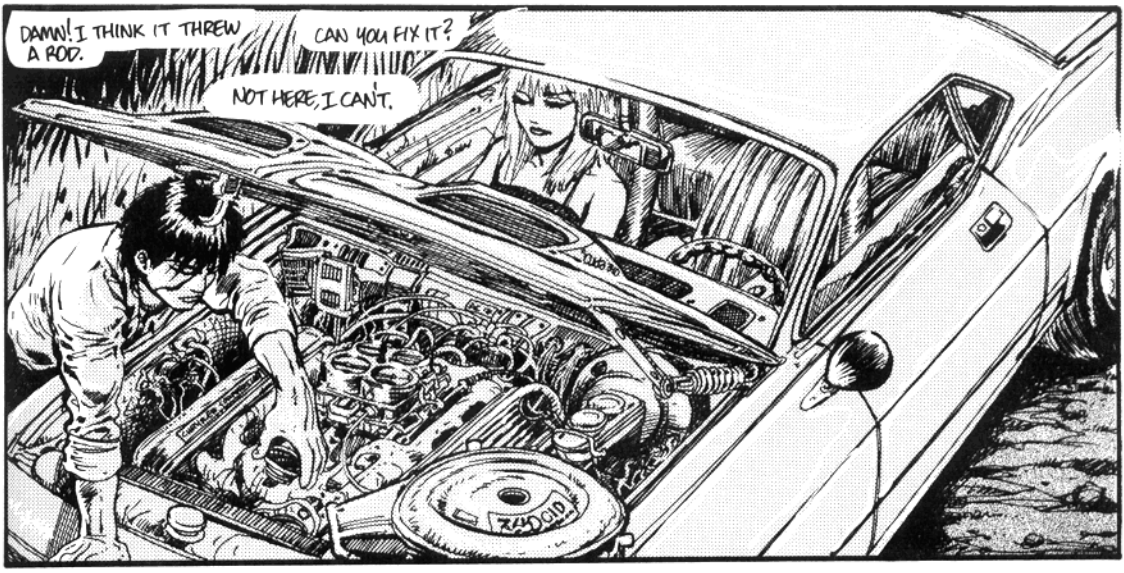

the
atrocity
exhibition:
one
year
ago

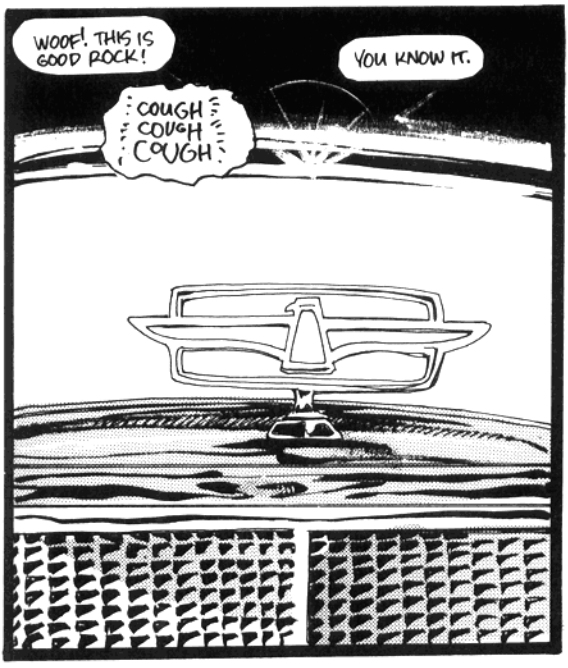
THE CROW

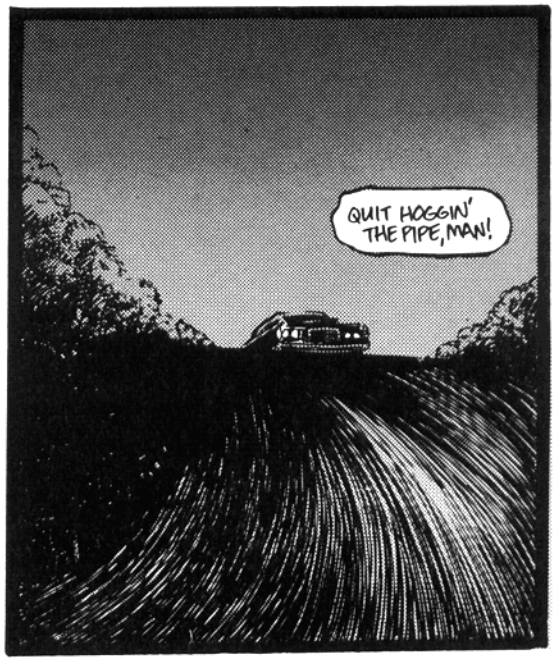
BOOK FOUR
DESPAIR



WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!!
COME ON LITTLE BALLERINA, IT'S GETTING COLD.
LET'S GO HOME, HANDSOME.
GOT SOMETHING IN MIND?
SOMETHING.
LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
I'M SO HAPPY, ERIC.


DAMN! I THINK IT THREW A ROD.
CAN YOU FIX IT?
NOT HERE, I CAN'T.


WOOF! THIS IS GOOD ROCK!
YOU KNOW IT.
COUGH COUGH COUGH


QUIT HOGGIN' THE PIPE, MAN!

BUMP
GODZILLA
Thunderbird

SMASH
WHAT WAS THAT, ERIC?
JUST SOME KIDS, HONEY.
ERTT
'CHO SEE THAT, TIN?
SNIFFF.., I KIN SMELL IT FROM HERE!
WHO GOTS THE PIPE?
WHOOAAA.
FUN BOY, YOU GOT THE PIPE?
MICHIGAN TBIRD
THEY'RE BACKING UP, SHELLY.
YOU BROKE IT, MAN...
SHELLY, I WANT YOU TO LOCK THE DOORS AND ROLL UP THE WINDOWS...
WHAT'S HAPPENING, ERIC?
EVERY THING'S GOING TO BE OK, SHELLY.
BUT ERIC...
IT'S GOING TO BE OK.

YO MAN YO.
SHADDUP.
YO.
YOU DONE THAT WHOLE ROCK?!?
YO.
NO THANKS GUYS, I'VE GOT IT HANDLED.
YOU SURE?
I'M SURE.
WHAT UP, DOG?
HEY BUD, KIN WE GIVE YA A HAND?
LEMME OUT MAN LEMME OUT...
C'MON, BUD, WE JUS' WANNA HELP.
YEAH HELP.

WELL, MAYBE THE GIRLIE NEEDS SOME HELP..
C'MON GUYS, GIVE US A BREAK.
IS YOU BEGGIN'? WHY, YOU WORTHLESS PIECE OF TRASH.
I OUGHTA TAKE YOU DOWN JUS' FER THAT.
WHAT'CHO GOT TA SAY FER YOURSELF?
SHELLY, TURN ON THE LIGHTS.
HEY BOYS, WHY DON'T CHA GO SEE IF THE LITTLE WOMAN NEEDS A HAND..

OPEN UP, BABY.
HEY TOM TOM, SHE DON'T LIKE US!
NO TASTE WHAT SO EVER.
GET AWAY FROM HER!!
OPEN UP, BABY.
LEAVE HER ALONE!
HEY MAN, GET OFF US.
HEY BOY.
EAT THIS.
BOOM

DON'T...
DO...
THIS.
WELL, WELL, THIS BOY SURE DOES HAVE A THICK HEAD.

ANY PARTING WORDS FOR YOUR PRETTY LITTLE BOYFRIEND, HONEY?
YO, T BIRD, GO ON AN' DO HIM.

PLEASE.
THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO? FOR SHAME...
...DON'T...
HEY, ERIC...
IT'S OK.
BOOM

LOOK T, HIS HAIR'S ON FIRE...
IT AIN'T YOUR FAULT, BOY.
ONE HOT INDIVIDUAL.
HEY, TBIRD, QUIT MESSIN' WITH THE DEAD GUY, LETS DO THE BROAD.
I'LL HUFF AN' PUFF...
GET HER OUTTA THE CAR BEFORE IT STARTS POURIN!
FWK
SSLUKSSSSSS

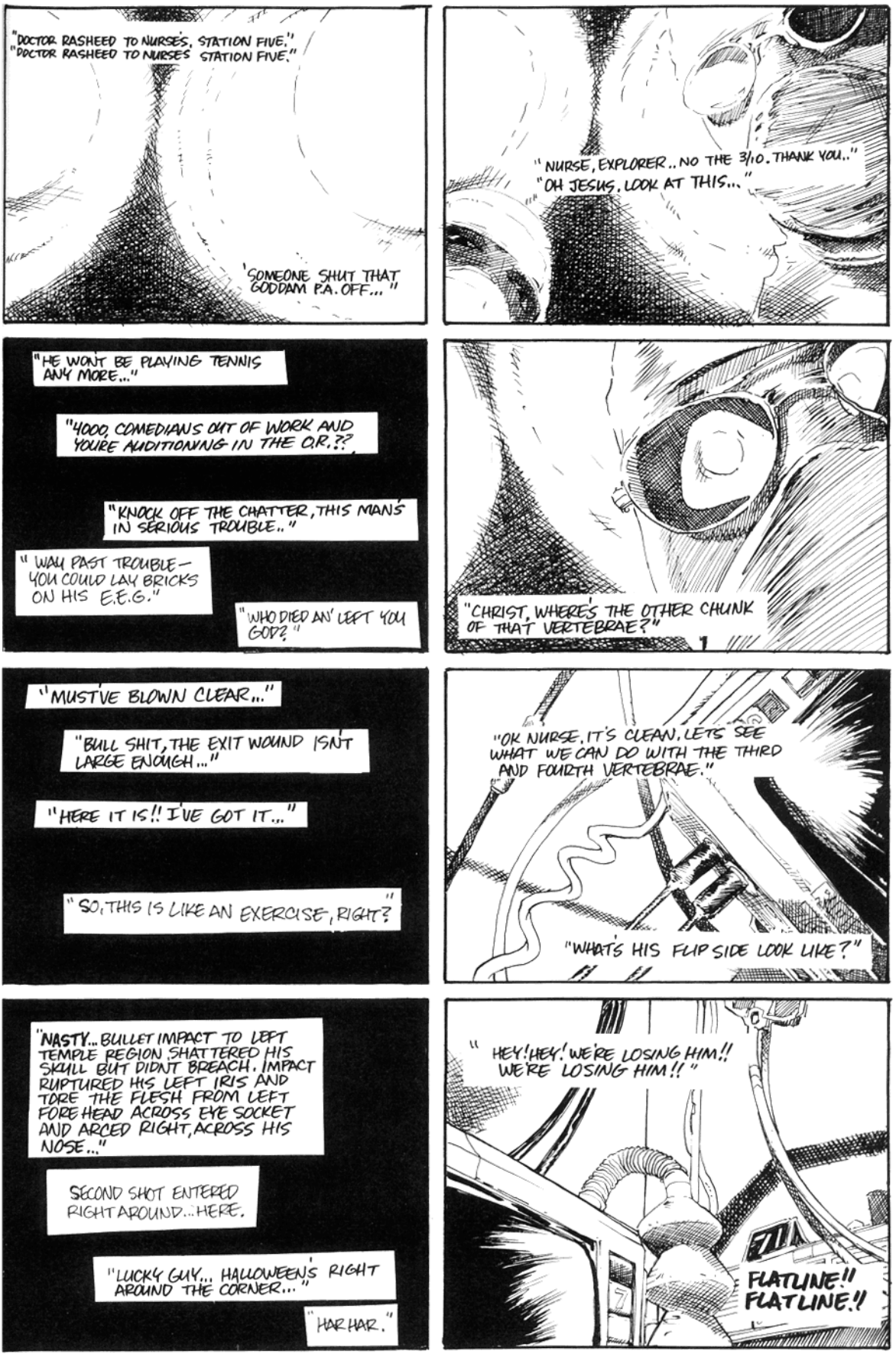
MAN, MAKE HER STOP THAT SCREAMIN'.
AWRIGHT, T YOUR TIME UP.
ERIC, PLEASE NO YOU CAN'T BE...
PLEASE, GOD NO NO NO.
SHUT HER UP. I CAN'T STAND THAT.
YOUR TIME UP, DAMN!!
COME ON, T BIRD.
SHUT UP BITCH!!
ERIC, YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THIS.
DON'T LOOK!! DON'T LOOK!!

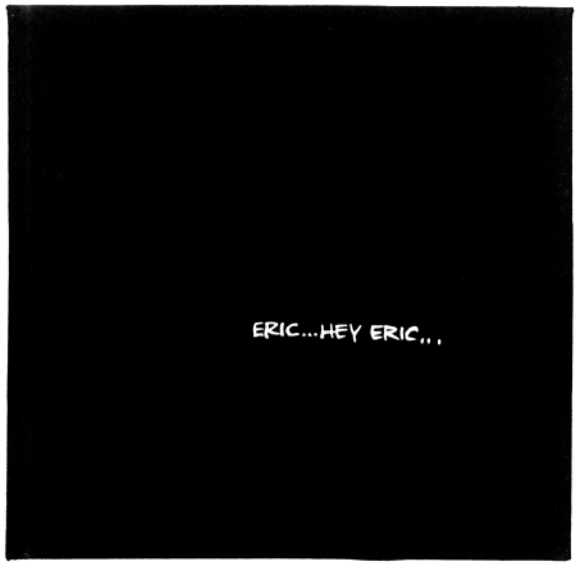
IT'S ALMOST OVER SON.
YOU'RE LOOKING!!

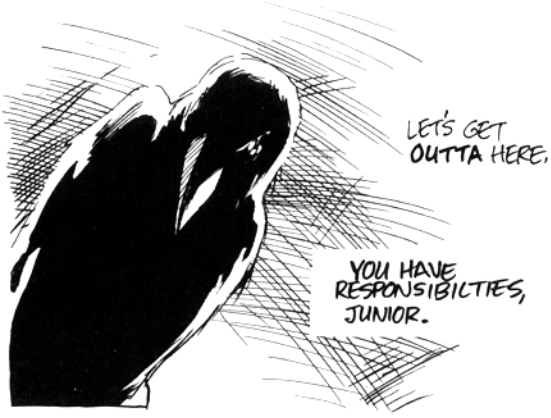
THE BROAD'S SCREAMIN' IS MAKIN' ME CRAZY...
JESUS, TOM TOM SHUT HER UP.
GET UP, TIN, I'M GONNA STOMP THAT BITCH.
SHUT UP!!
SKRUNCH CRUNCH
GET OUTTA THE WAY, TOM TOM.
BOOM
SPLAK
GODDAMN IT T, YOU GOT BLOOD ALL OVER MY MARTENS.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, TOM?

AWRIGHT! MY TURN NOW.
FUN, HALF HER HEAD GONE!
DON'T WANT HER HEAD, MAN...
YOU SICK, PAL.
GOT THE RINGS AN' WALLET? LETS JUMP THIS TRAIN.
C'MON, FUN.
HEY, GIMME A MINUTE, WILL YA? SHE AINT EXACTLY RESPONSIVE, YA KNOW?
HEY, COME ON!! WAIT UP, GODDAMMIT!
T BIRD, YOU DOG.
MAKE ME WALK ALLA WAY BACK. HHMMFF...
POURIN' FRIGGIN' RAIN...
WAIT 'TILL TIN TIN FINDS OUT I GOT ALL THE ROCK!!

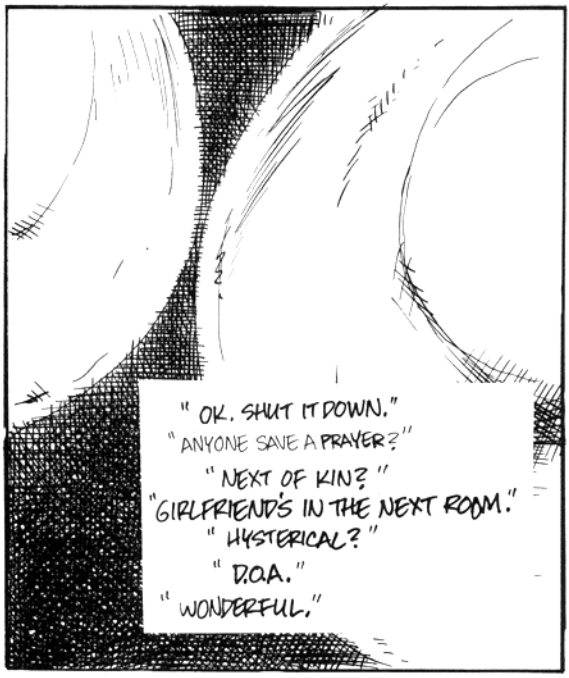
headtrauma
LO, ERIC. NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M CAPTAIN HOOK, HA HA. DOC SAYS I'VE GOT TWO MINUTES BEFORE YOU GO BACK INTO SURGERY.
GOTTA TELL YOU IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. DOC SAYS YOU WERE DOA... BRAIN DEAD. THEY GOT A HEART BEAT BACK BUT... UH... YOUR HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE AN ATTIC, SO TO SPEAK...
REALLY, I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE AND SAY I'M SORRY...
ALBINI MEDICAL SUPPLY OF CHICAGO
I'M SORRY YOUR GIRL SUFFERED, LIKE THAT. AT LEAST YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN. MAKES ME SICK TO BE HUMAN.
HERE'S MY CARD ERIC. GIVE ME A RING AN' WE'LL HAVE COFFEE SOMETIME.
HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD LIFE, SON.
SORRY.
ICU W
THE CROW.
WHAT?!? WHAT DID YOU SAY?!?
THE CROW...
THE CROW SAID DON'T LOOK!!

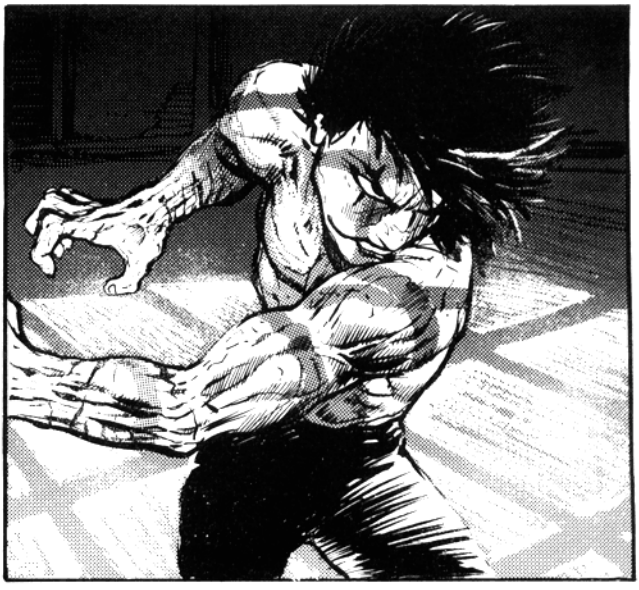

"DOCTOR RASHEED TO NURSES, STATION FIVE."
"DOCTOR RASHEED TO NURSES STATION FIVE."
"SOMEONE SHUT THAT GODDAM P.A. OFF..."
"NURSE, EXPLORER.. NO THE 3/0. THANK YOU.."
"OH JESUS, LOOK AT THIS..."
"HE WON'T BE PLAYING TENNIS ANY MORE.."
"4000, COMEDIANS OUT OF WORK AND YOURE AUDITIONING IN THE O.R.??"
"KNOCK OFF THE CHATTER, THIS MANS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.."
"WAY PAST TROUBLE— YOU COULD LAY BRICKS ON HIS E.E.G."
"WHO DIED AN' LEFT YOU GOD?"
"CHRIST, WHERE'S THE OTHER CHUNK OF THAT VERTEBRAE?"
"MUST'VE BLOWN CLEAR..."
"BULL SHIT, THE EXIT WOUND ISN'T LARGE ENOUGH..."
"HERE IT IS!! I'VE GOT IT..."
"SO, THIS IS LIKE AN EXERCISE, RIGHT?"
"OK NURSE, IT'S CLEAN. LETS SEE WHAT WE CAN DO WITH THE THIRD AND FOURTH VERTEBRAE."
"WHAT'S HIS FLIP SIDE LOOK LIKE?"
"NASTY... BULLET IMPACT TO LEFT TEMPLE REGION SHATTERED HIS SKULL BUT DIDN'T BREACH. IMPACT RUPTURED HIS LEFT IRIS AND TORE THE FLESH FROM LEFT FOREHEAD ACROSS EYE SOCKET AND ARCED RIGHT, ACROSS HIS NOSE..."
SECOND SHOT ENTERED RIGHT AROUND... HERE.
"LUCKY GUY... HALLOWEEN'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER..."
"HAR HAR."
"HEY! HEY! WE'RE LOSING HIM!! WE'RE LOSING HIM!!"
FLATLINE!! FLATLINE!!





"BRING ME THE HEAD OF DAVID," SHE SAID.





SMASH

SHELLY, I'M COMING HOME.

MY VALENTINE HAS HOLLOW EYES

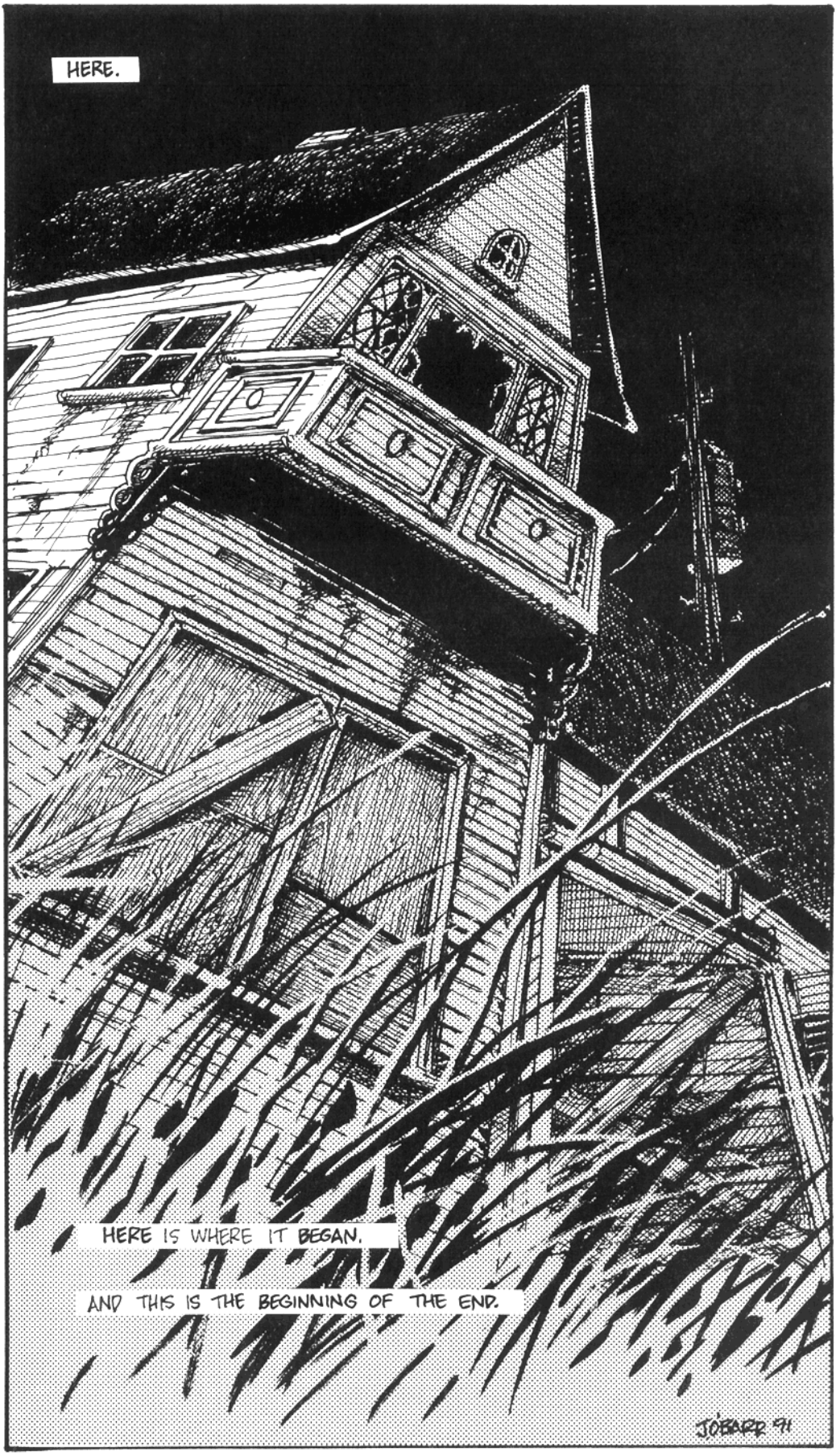
CRESCENDO

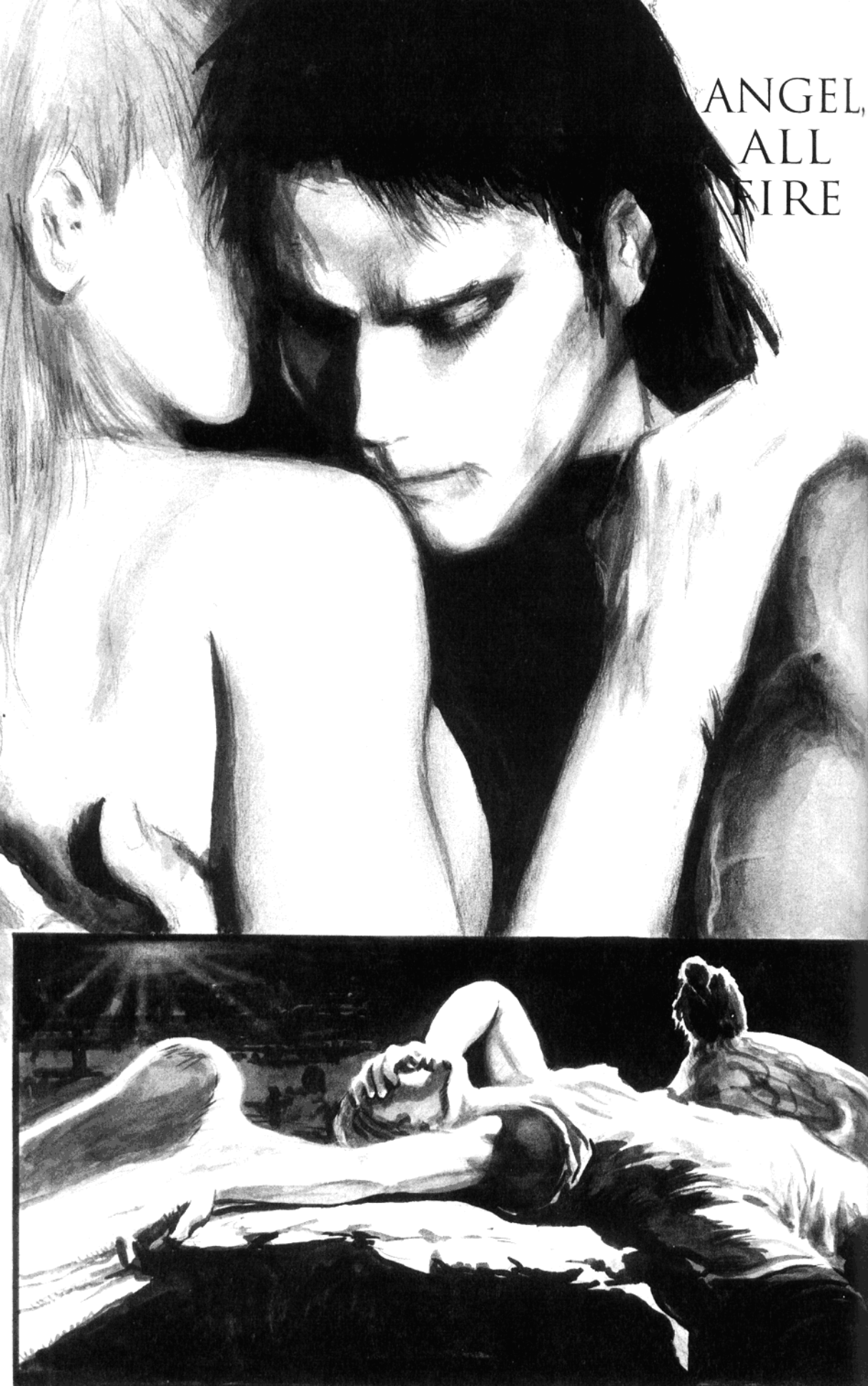
. DEATH .

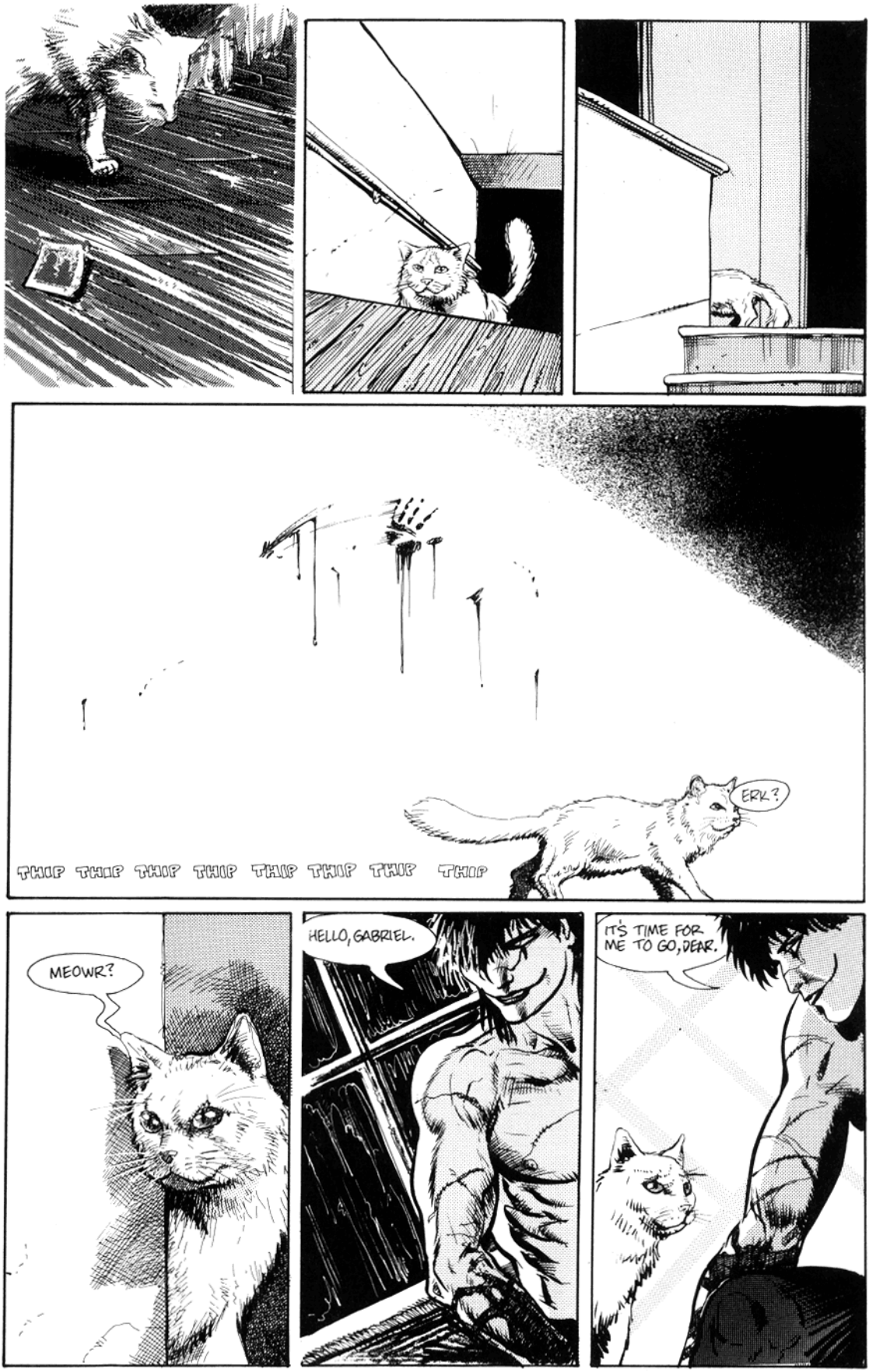
DEATH

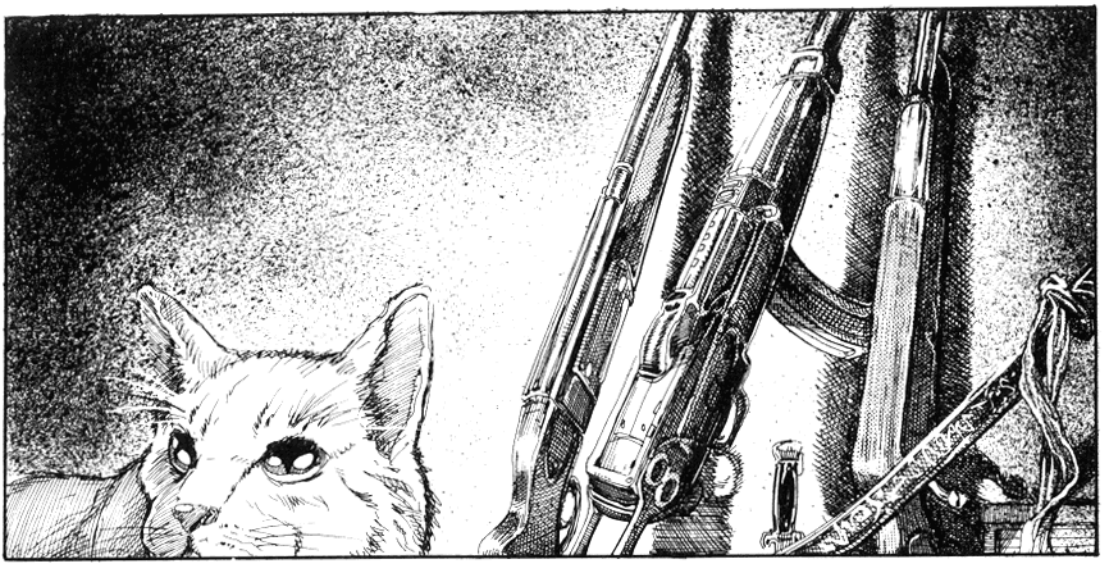
IT'S NOT DEATH IF YOU REFUSE IT...
IT IS IF YOU ACCEPT IT.

JOBARR

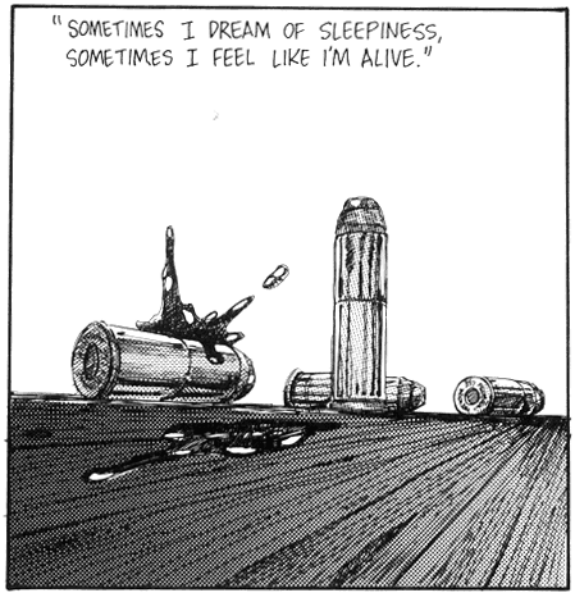

HERE.
HERE IS WHERE IT BEGAN.
AND THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END.
JOBARR 91


ANGEL,
ALL
FIRE

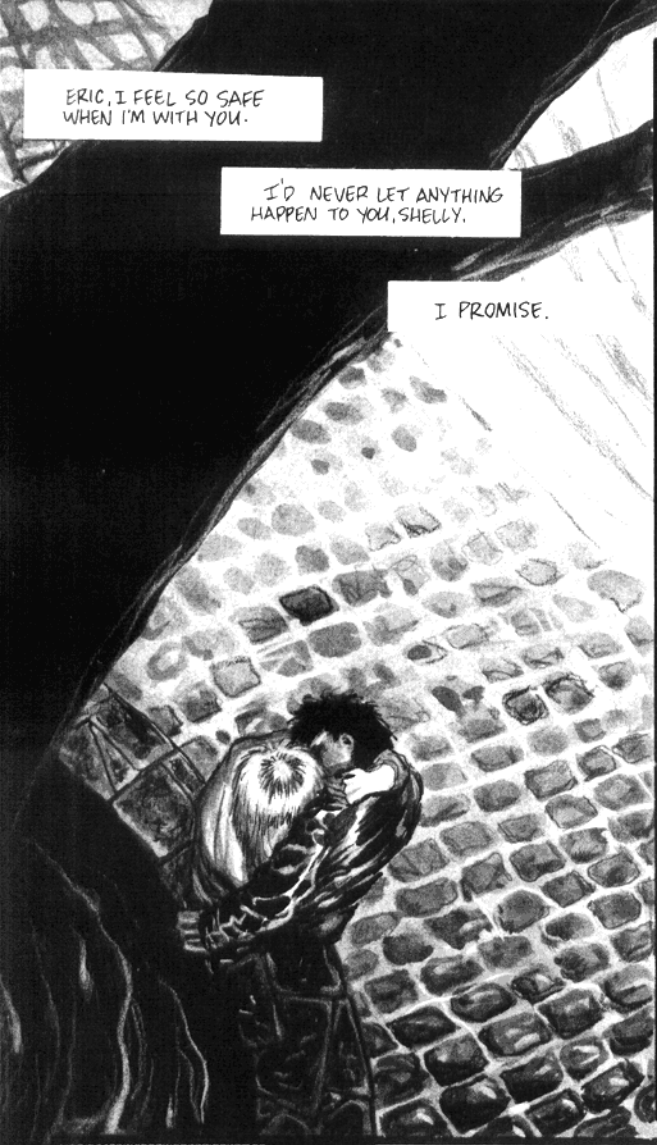

ERK?
THIP THIP THIP THIP THIP THIP THIP THIP
MEOWR?
HELLO, GABRIEL.
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO, DEAR.

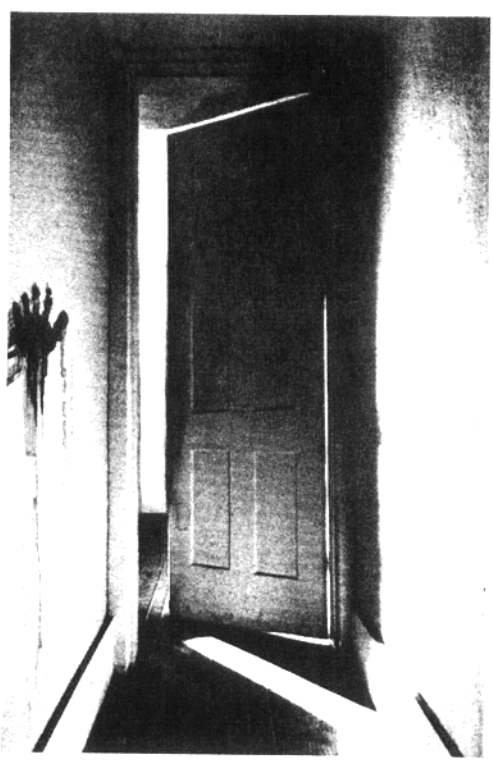


SSKRRRKKK

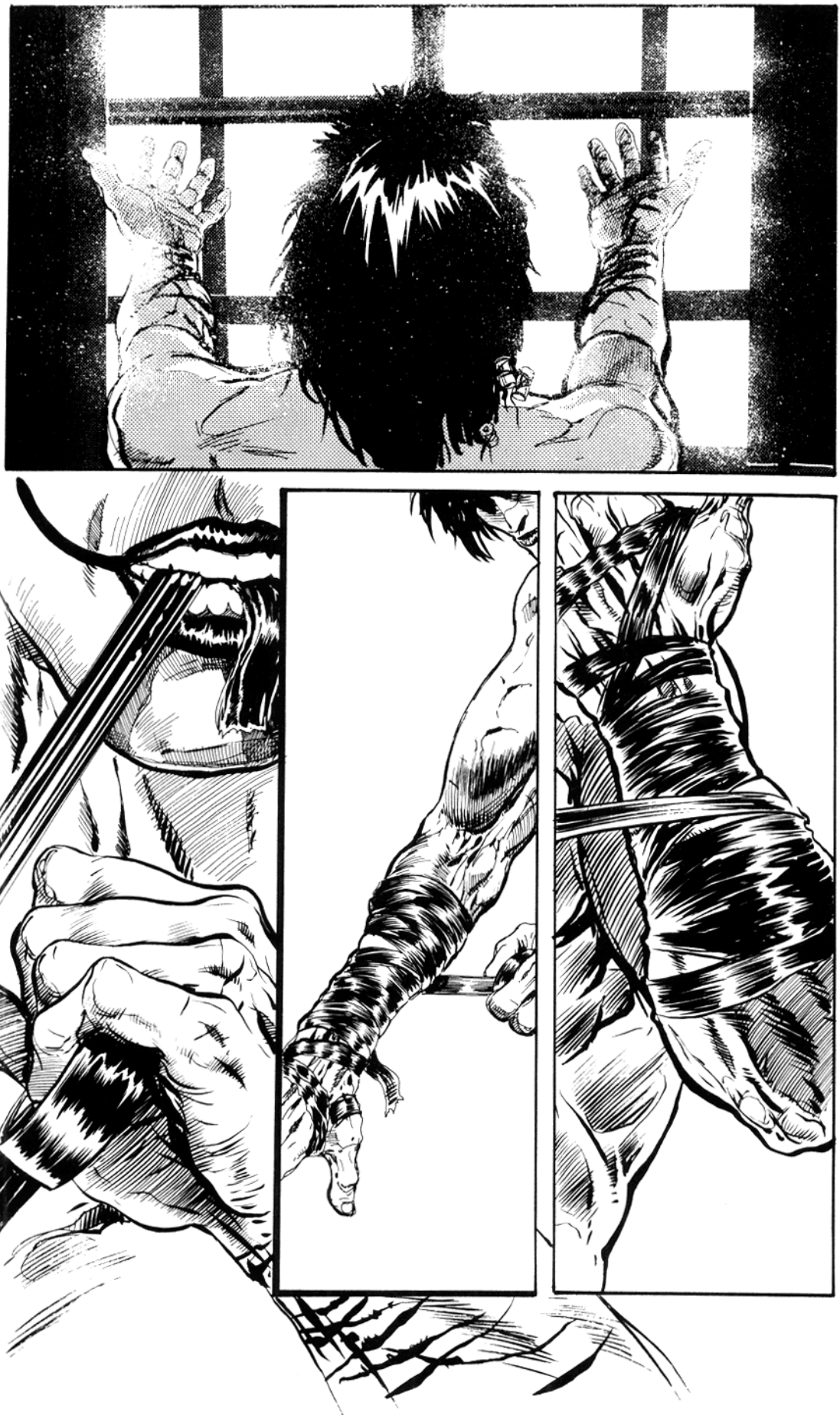

"SOMETIMES I DREAM OF SLEEPINESS,
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M ALIVE."

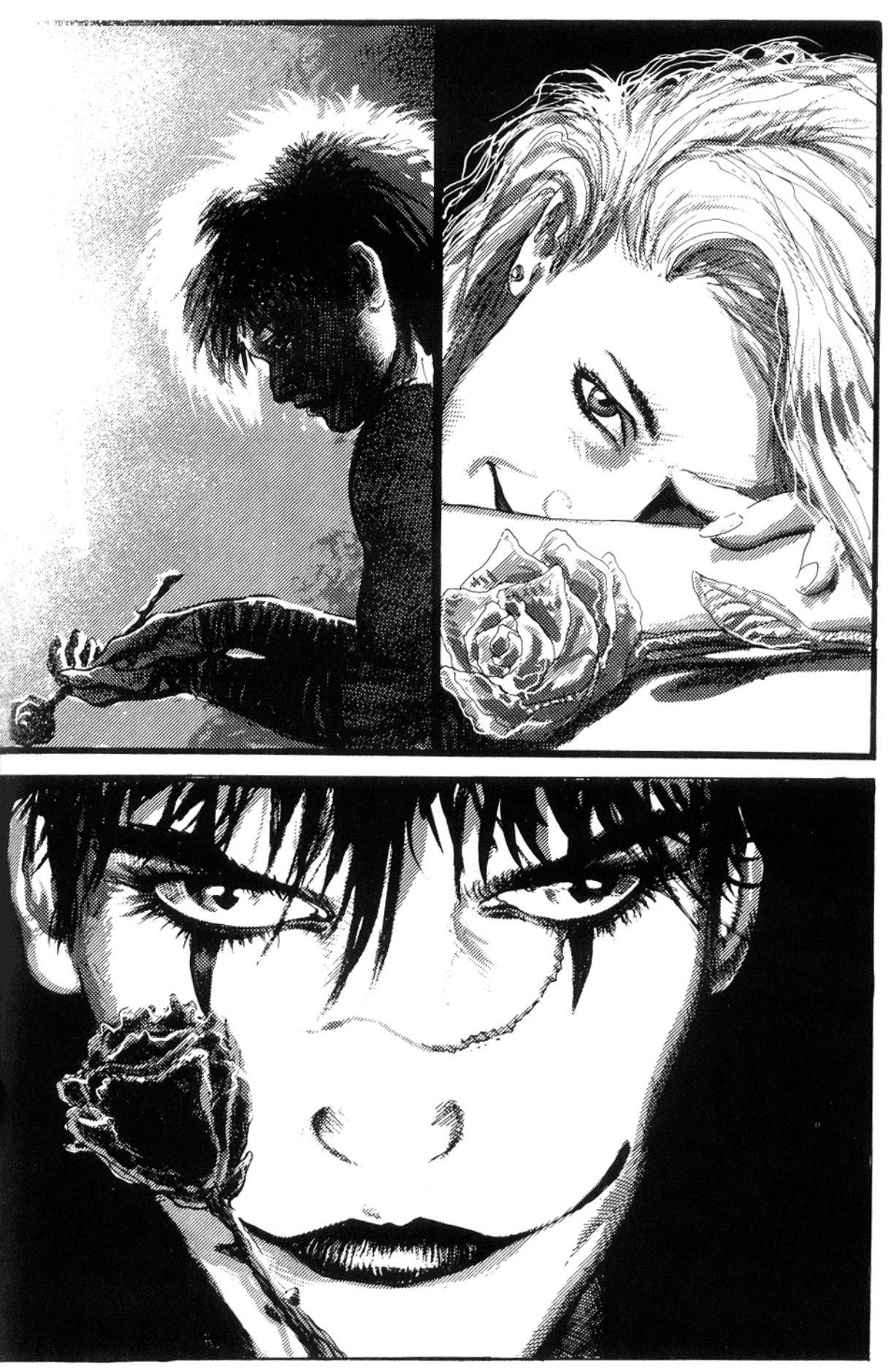
IN THE DOORWAY OF GLORY HE FINDS DEATH WHO PUTS HIS HAND IN HERS AND WHISPERS TO HIM, "NOW... COME HOME, NOW."
"SOON," HE SAYS.

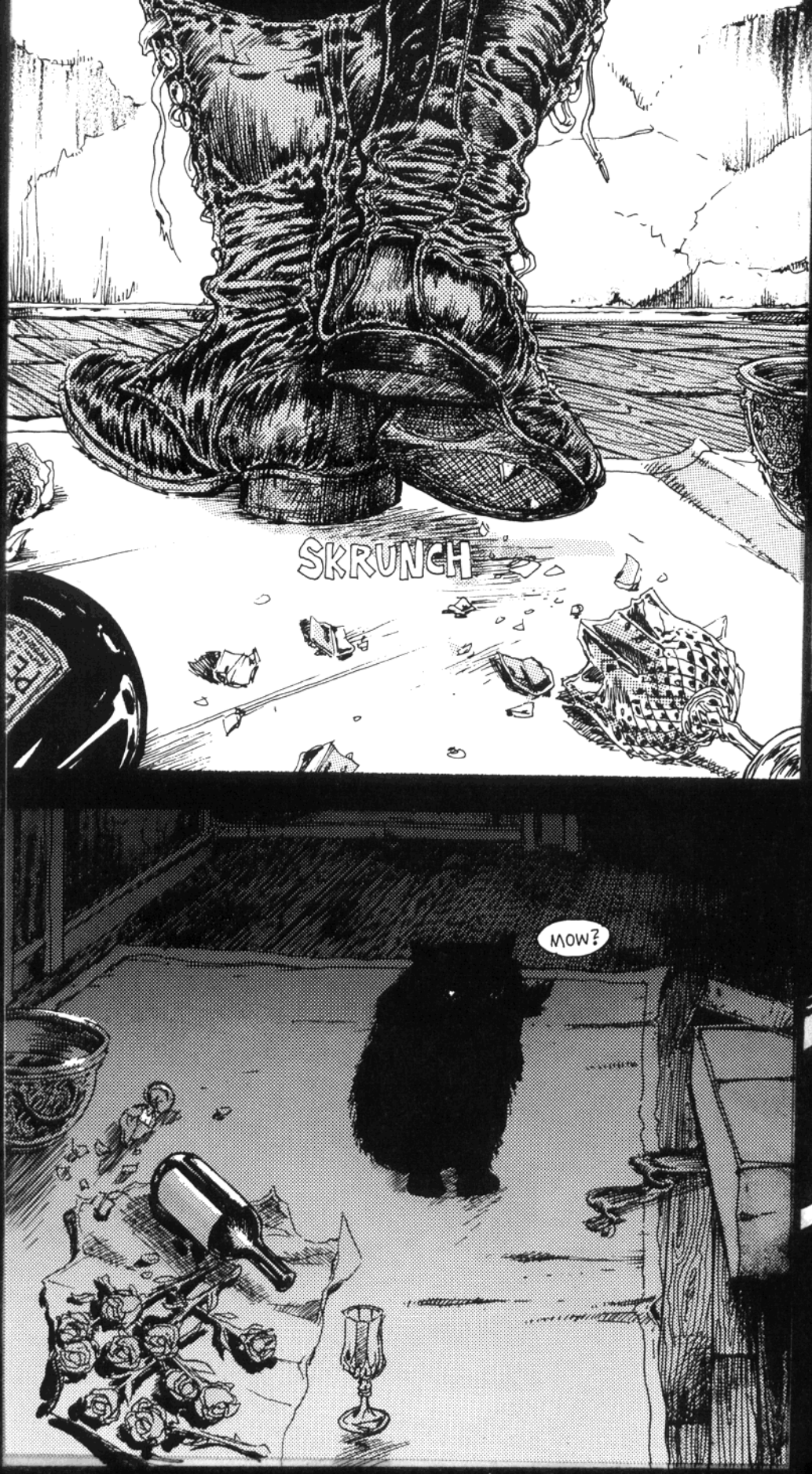

ERIC, I FEEL SO SAFE WHEN I'M WITH YOU.
I'D NEVER LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU, SHELLY.
I PROMISE.



I PROMISE.
SHE SAID, "MAYBE WE COULD MAKE BEAUTIFUL BABIES."



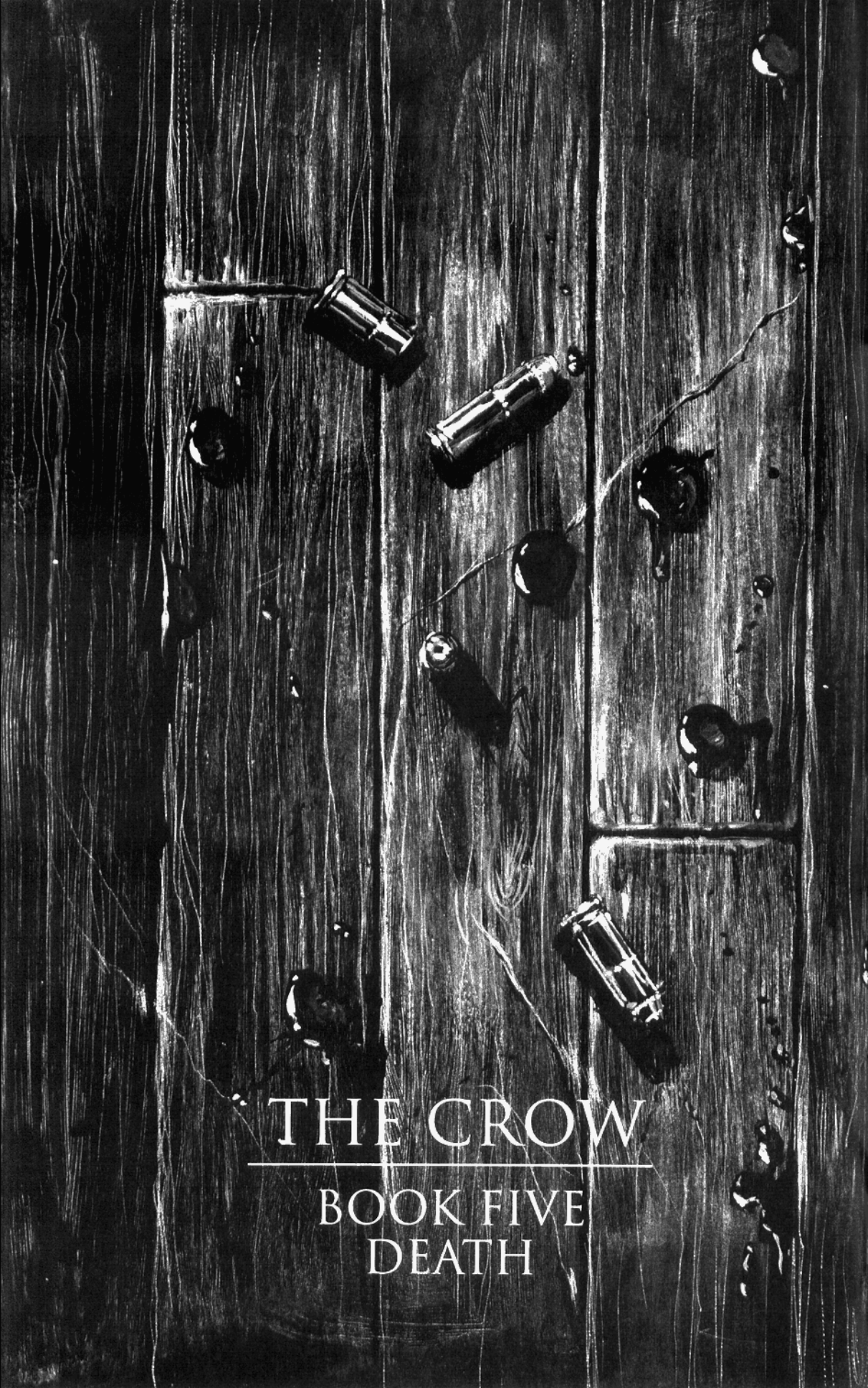



SKRUNCH
MOW?

357 MAGNUM
CHAK
20 GAUGE
STOEGER
STOEGER
20 GAUGE
STOEGER
20 GA.

hammer

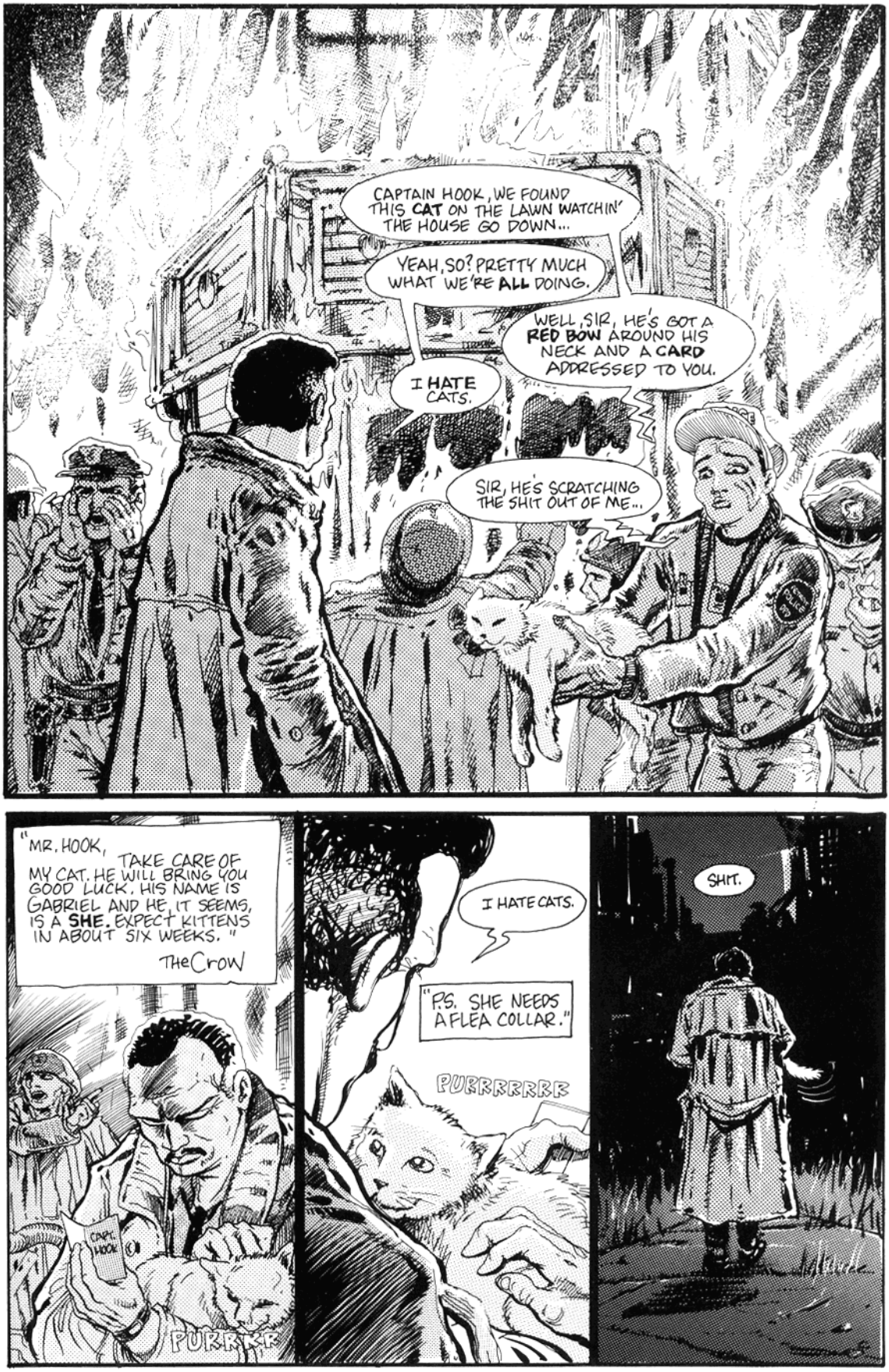
party


THE CROW
BOOK FIVE
DEATH

HELLO, SHERRI.
MR CLOWN! YOU COME BACK JUS' LIKE YOU SAID!!
JUST LIKE I PROMISED.

I MISSED YOU SO MUCH...
'MMISSED YOU TOO... PRINCESS...
YOU GOIN' AWAY FER GOOD THIS TIME, AIN'T YA?
YES. I'VE SOME AFFAIRS TO PUT IN ORDER AND THEN I'M GOING TO BE WITH SHELLY.
BUT YOU SAID SHE WAS...
YES, BUT IT'S WHERE I BELONG.
I DON'T UNNERSTAND BUT I KNOW YOU LOVED HER A WHOLE LOT.
MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY, PRINCESS.
'GUESS YOU SHOULD GO THEN...

... EVEN IF IT DOES MAKE MY HEART HURT...
IM SORRY...
I'M SORRY FOR EVERY THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU...
...AND FOR EVERY-THING THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.
PLEASE... DON'T BE AFRAID, SHERRI. SOMEDAY ALL THINGS WILL BE FAIR AND THERE WILL BE WONDERFULL SURPRISES.
I TRULY DO BELIEVE THIS.
GOOD BYE, PRINCESS.
SEE YOU IN HEAVEN, DOLL.
'BYE, MISTER CLOWN.
I LOVE YOU.


CAPTAIN HOOK, WE FOUND THIS CAT ON THE LAWN WATCHIN' THE HOUSE GO DOWN...
YEAH, SO? PRETTY MUCH WHAT WE'RE ALL DOING.
WELL, SIR, HE'S GOT A RED BOW AROUND HIS NECK AND A CARD ADDRESSED TO YOU.
I HATE CATS.
SIR, HE'S SCRATCHING THE SHIT OUT OF ME..
"MR. HOOK, TAKE CARE OF MY CAT. HE WILL BRING YOU GOOD LUCK. HIS NAME IS GABRIEL AND HE, IT SEEMS, IS A SHE. EXPECT KITTENS IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS."
The Crow
CAPT. HOOK
PURRRR
I HATE CATS.
"P.S. SHE NEEDS A FLEA COLLAR."
PURRRRRRR
SHIT.

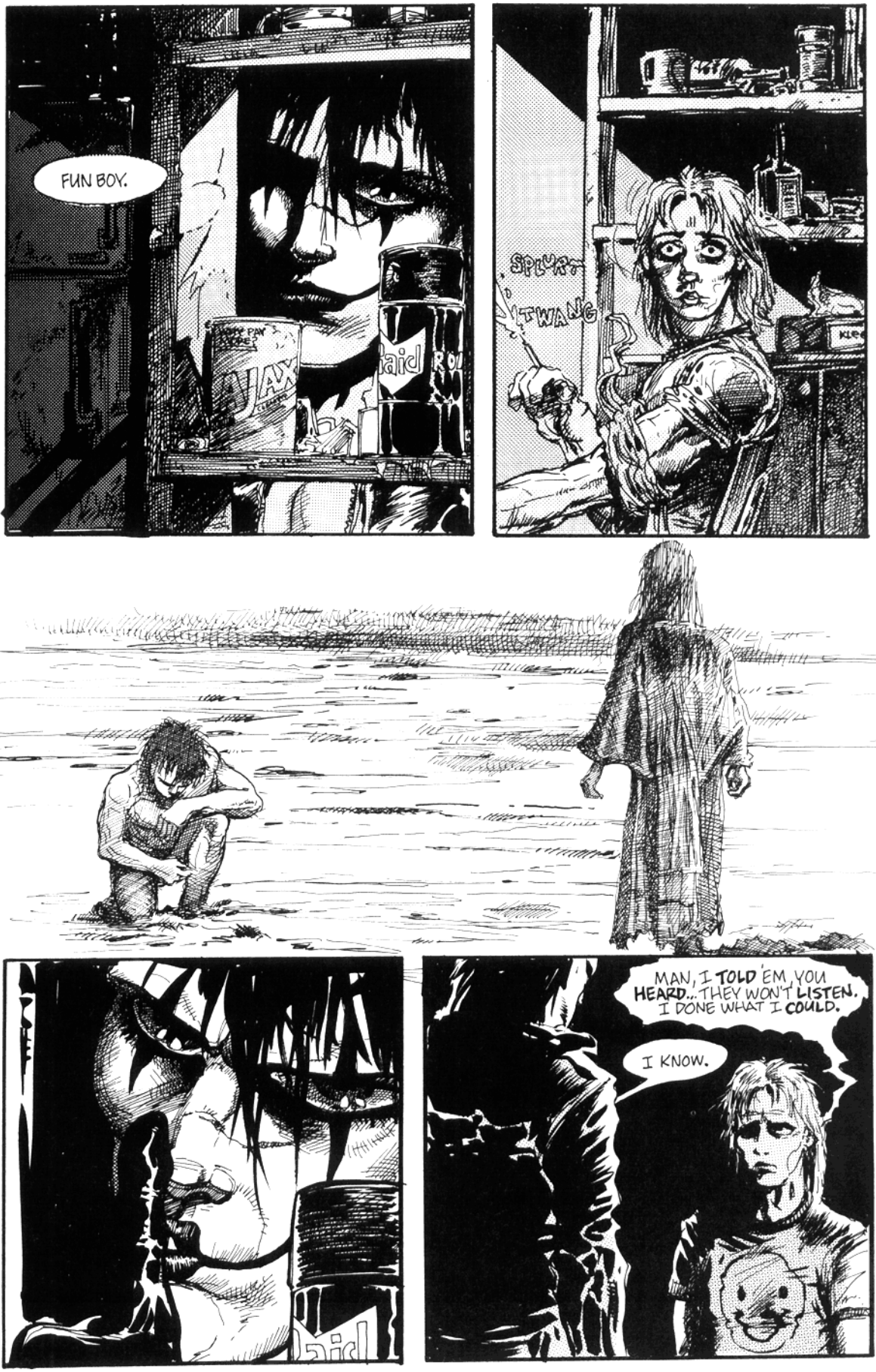
ZERSTORUNG
350125 GO
GRAVITY
HEY, UGLY PATRICK... I THINK YOU'D BETTER START THINKING ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE OF ETERNITY...
STOP
WHA..?
YOU THE DUDE WITH T BIRD'S PACKAGE?
NO.
I AM HE WHO CAN DISSOLVE THE TERROR OF BEING A MAN AND GOING AMONG THE DEAD.
I AM MORPHINE FOR A WOODEN LEG.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, HERMAN...
BOOM BOOM
HHMPP!! CHEMICAL MONSTER. PUT HIM DOWN, ERIC.
WHAT THE FU...!!?? ...TWO...??
...AMAZING GOD WOULD WASTE SKIN ON TRASH LIKE THAT...

'CALLIN' IT A NIGHT, ALBRECT?
..HUH?? ...OH, NAW, HENRY... ...I... UH....
'JUST GOT SOME THINGS TO CHECK IN TO...
...SEE YA AT THE BOWLIN' ALLEY FRIDAY.
SURE THING.
Officer Albrect There is a little girl who lives Forrest St in stone. Please
to see her there. Her name is Sherre.
the Crow

'M TELLIN' YA, HE KILLED EVERYONE IN THE PLACE, T BIRD.
YOU'RE NODDIN', MAN.
DAMN STRAIGHT I'M ON A NOD AFTER WHAT I SEEN.
SO, THIS IS SOME GUY I SMOKED A YEAR AGO, COMIN' BACK FOR REVENGE...
YOU REMEMBER THAT OLD 'CUDA AN' THE BLONDE CHICK? OUT OFF I-75? WE WAS ALL STONED ON ROCK...
SOMEBODY SOLD YOU SOME BAD DOPE THERE, FUN.
WHAT EVER YOU SAY, T.
LISTEN TA YOURSELF, MAN.

I TOLD HIM WE'D MEET HIM THERE, ON THE HIGHWAY, BUT IT DON'T MATTER, HE KNOWS, MAN. HE KNOWS.
FUN BOY, YOU COME OVER HERE TALKIN' SHIT, BRINGIN' ME DOWN. JUNK HAS DONE ATE UP YOUR HEAD, BOY.
YOU USED TO BE PRETTY SMART.. NOW YOU JUST MAKE ME SICK...
YOU JUNKIES ARE PATHETIC.
GET OUTTA HERE, FUN. NOW.
OK IF I HOOK UP FIRST?
JESUS CHRIST!! YOU'RE 'BOUT TO FALL OVER NOW!!
IN THE KITCHEN, OUTTA MY SIGHT.


FUN BOY.
SPLURT
TWANG
MAN, I TOLD 'EM, YOU HEARD... THEY WON'T LISTEN. I DONE WHAT I COULD.
I KNOW.

SIT, PLEASE.
I PROMISED YOU A PAIN-LESS DEATH. IT IS TIME.
WOULDN'T DO NO GOOD FOR ME TA YELL FOR T-BIRD AND THEM GUYS, WOULD IT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LISTEN, I CAN'T SAY WHY I DONE THE SHIT I DONE... I WISH I COULD SAY I WAS, SORRY BUT I AINT. I'M A MONSTER... BURNIN' FROM THE INSIDE...
OBEDIENCE IS SUB-MISSION VEILED WITH GRAVITY. I NEVER LET NOTHING DEFINE OR LIMIT ME.
FUN BOY, I CANNOT GIVE YOU ABSOLUTION... IN A FEW MOMENTS YOUR SINS WILL BE BETWEEN GOD AND YOU.
HAVE YOU READ MILTON?
YEAH.
LETHE'?
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND.
HERE IS YOUR MORPHINE, FUN BOY...
...DO IT...
...ALL OF IT. NOW.
THANK YOU, GHOST MAN...
PERHAPS I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL...

FUNBOY, YOUR CRIME WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WAS IN COLD BLOOD. IT WAS THE ACT OF A SOUL WHICH HAVING DESTROYED EVERY THING WITHIN ITSELF HAS ACCUMULATED IMMENSE STRENGTH... IT KNOWS IT'S OWN DARK SECRET...
...AND THIS CAN BE COMPLETELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE ACTS OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION SOON TO COME...
YOU WERE DEAD FROM DAY ONE...
MAN, THAT'S A WHOLE CC OF MEDICAL GRADE MORPH YOU JUST PUMPED INTO YOUR HEART!!
WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE OUR SOULS UNTIL THEY ARE IN PAIN...
HHMMPH.. SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE ANGEL OF DEATH...
THE DIVINE IS NO LESS PARADOXICAL THAN THE VICIOUS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN?
I'M WEARING THE CROWN OF THORNS T BIRD PLACED ON MY HEAD.
HEH HEH HEH
I'LL GIVE LUCIFER YOUR REGARDS, GHOST MAN.
DO ME A FAVOR... WHEN YOU GET TO T BIRD...
KILL THAT BASTARD SLOW.

YO! FUN, YOU AWMOST BE DONE, MAN?
I KNOW WHY JESUS WEPT MOTHERFUCKER
'PROBLY CHECKED A NOD ON THE KITCHEN TABLE...
SOME BODY GO WAKE THAT JUNKIE SHITHEAD UP...

STUPID!!
THIS GUY PUT DOWN SEVEN DUDES IN HERE...WICKED DUDES THAT DON'T DIE SO EASY...
THIS BE PLAIN STUPID, MAN. I GOT AN OLD LADY AN' A KID...
SOMEBODY GIMME A KOOL.
JUS' SHUT UP, MAN. T SAID WE HANG CASE HE SHOW AGAIN.
HUH, FOOL AIN'T GONNA COME BACK HERE...
...BE A SURE RIDE IN A BIG BLACK...
CLICK
KACHOOM
...CAR...
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?
TWO-TONE...
DO YOU WANT TO LIVE, TWO-TONE?
I....

...I..
...YES. I WANT TO LIVE.
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN MY RIDE IN THE BIG BLACK CAR.
DO YOU SEE MY SMILE IN MY WORDS, SAD AND EVIL? SAD BECAUSE I AM UTTERLY ALONE. EVIL BECAUSE I AM DEAD AND YET I LIVE.
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LISTEN.
A DEAD MAN VISITS YOU.
PLEASE, MISTER, DON'T KILL ME...
..DON'T KILL ME.

YO GUYS, HERE COME T-BIRD AND SHELBY THE GIANT.
THE ROOM
WHAT UP, T?
SO, DEE, HOW MANY GUYS YOU COME UP WITH?
LES SEE... MARKY T, JIMMY ZULU, ALL THE BEANERS 'CEPT FOR.. UH... SANCHEZ.... ABOUT 15 GUYS... MOST EVERYBODY WAS AT THE MILL... AN AINT NO ONE COMIN' OUT OF THERE STANDIN' UP...
WHAT GOIN' DOWN, T? 'BOUT 20 OF YUR BEST IN ZIPPER BAGS, MAN...
YOU GETTIN' SMART, DEE?
NO, MAN, NO... JUS' CURIOUS IS ALL...
WELL, FUN BOY SAY WE ON A GHOST HUNT.. 'COURSE HE WRECKED ON THE HAPPY FLOWER 'BOUT AN HOUR AGO, SO IT DONT COUNT FOR SHIT.
EVERY ONE CARRIN'?
NEED YOU ASK, T?
HOW YOU DOIN', SHELBY?
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, ASSHOLE.

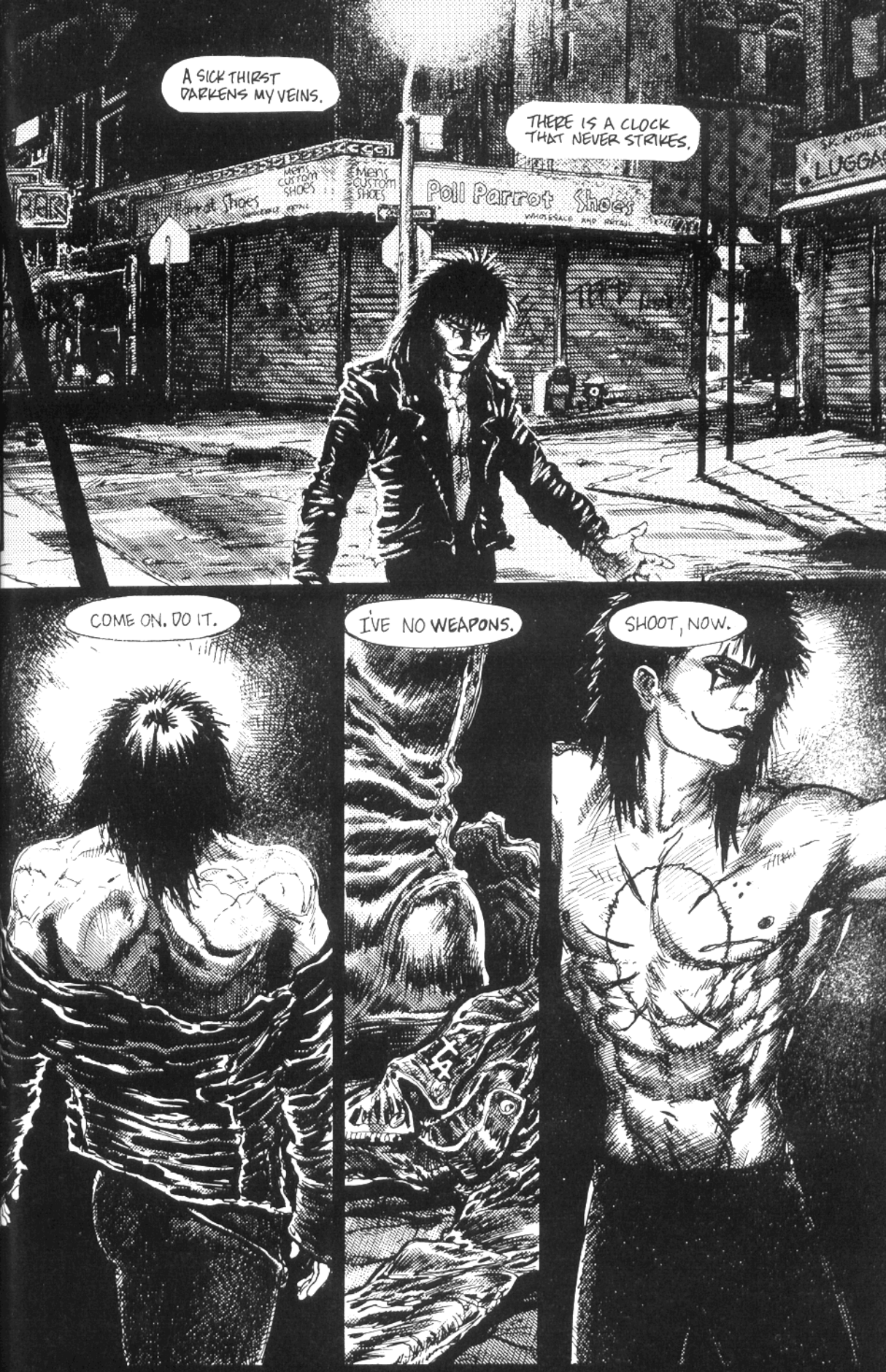
SORRY, SHELBY, MAN... WE GONNA GET THIS DUDE. GHOST MY BLACK ASS.
'S'OK DEE, YOU GUYS HANG UNTIL SOMETHIN' COMES DOWN. BE COOL.
GOT YA, T.
YOU BELIEVE ANY A THAT GHOST SHIT, T BIRD?
I BELIEVE IN DOPE, GUNS, AND BROADS.
PUSH THE LIGHTER IN, SHELBY, WILL YA?
...SO, THE BITCH, SHE SAYS...
I HEARD THIS ONE, MAN.
LEMME FINISH...
..SO THE BITC SHE SAYS
HIT THE LIGHTER AGAIN.
PINE FRESH SCENT
CHING
LIGH
ITCH, SHE SAYS THE GUY "I OUGHT YOU...
THIP THIP
HEY, SHELBY...

YOU HEAR SOMETHIN'?
RAIN, PROB'LY.
...SO, ANYWAY, THIS HOOKER, SHE SAYS "I THOUGHT YOU..."
...HEH HEH..."I THOUGHT YOU..."
CHAK CHAK
UMMM...
BOOM
SHELBY??

KAKLUNK
JESUS OH JESUS JESUS OH JES
...BLOOD GOTTA GET THE BLOOD OFF... WIPERS... TURN THE WIPERS ON...
WASH
WIPER
T'BIRD, YOU IDIOT...
CHIKA
SKWEEEE
CLAK
...THE BLOOD IS INSIDE...
...INSIDE THE CAR...
...INSIDE YOUR HEAD...
...FOR THE MOMENT.

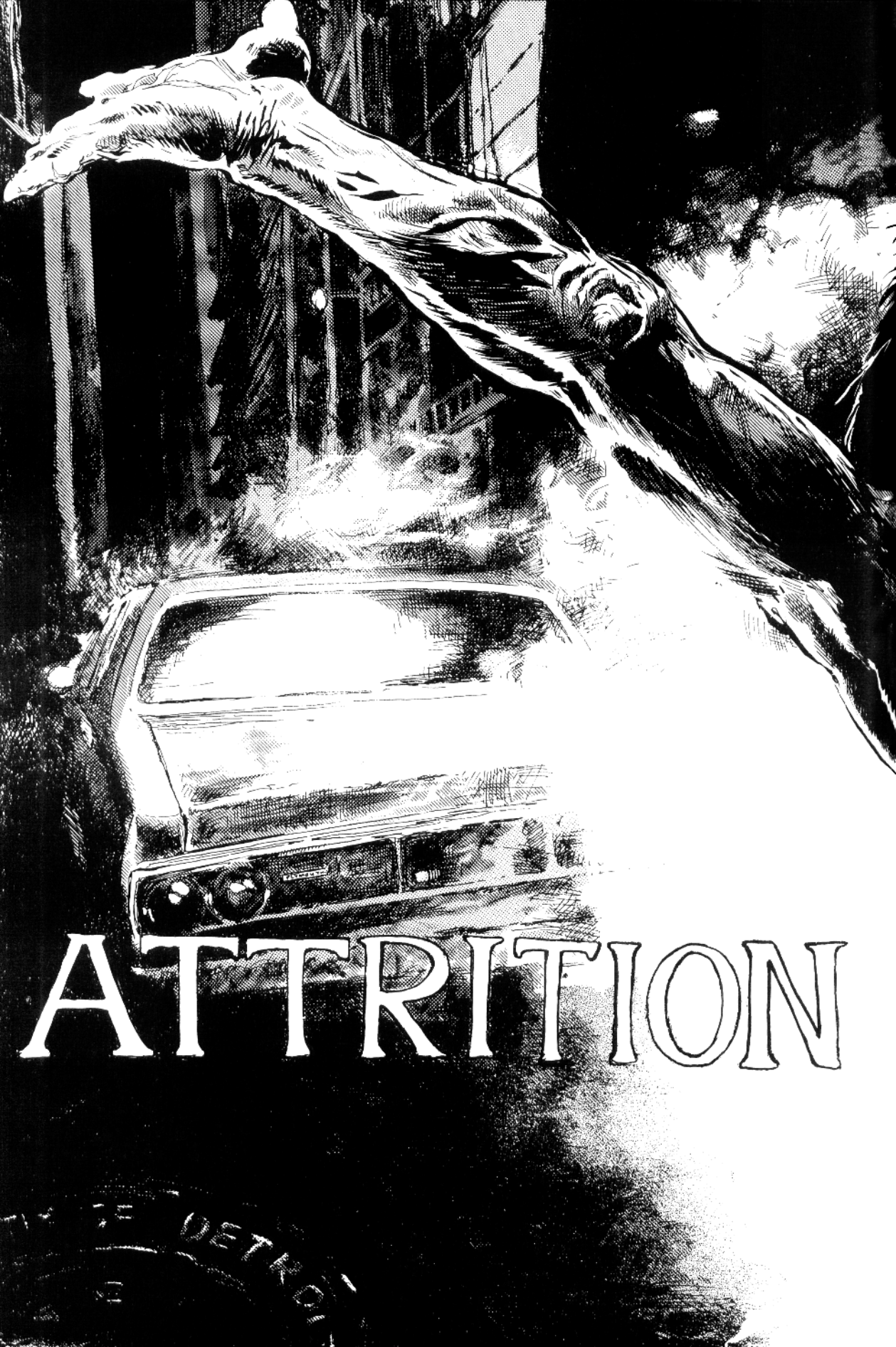
GET OUT OF THE CAR, BASTARD.
I'M GOING TO KILL ALL OF YOUR FOOT SOLDIERS...
... I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS.
SNAP!
ice age

I THINK THIS HERE'S OUR MAN COMIN' UP THE STREET...
HE AIN'T GOT NO GUNS!!
FOOL.
GENTLEMEN, DON'T YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO GO IN OUT OF THE RAIN?
MAN, IT AIN'T RAININ'.
ARE YOU BLIND?!? IT'S RAINING BLOOD!!
BUT I DIGRESS...


A SICK THIRST DARKENS MY VEINS.
THERE IS A CLOCK THAT NEVER STRIKES.
Men's Custom Shoes
Men's Custom Shoes
Poll Parrot Shoes
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
COME ON. DO IT.
I'VE NO WEAPONS.
SHOOT, NOW.

OH MAN! IS THIS DUDE FOR REAL? CHECK IT OUT!
THIS CAT HAS DONE GONE SOFT IN THE SKULL, NO QUESTION!
AIN'T FUNNY, MAN
THIS PUNK JUS' SNUFFED SHELBY.
ANY FINAL WORDS MISTER GHOST MAN?
YOU REMEMBER, BOY...

IF YOU ARE THE SAME GUY FROM A YEAR AGO YOU HAS GONE FRIGGIN' MENTAL FROM THEM HEAD SHOTS...
THE CROW SAID DON'T LOOK!!
YEAH. DROP HIM..


ATTRITION

"IT'S NOT DEATH
IF YOU REFUSE
IT"

STAY PUT...THIS A TRICK, HOMEY... CAN'T BE REAL..
POLICE
WHAT?!!?
...SHIT...
WHERE'D HE GO?!?!!!
HE IN THAT SHADOW OVER THERE!! I SEEN...
NO!! OVER THERE!!

LOOKING DOWN THE CROSS
DID ANYONE SEE...
UH...
URK
KA KRAK

BEHOLD THE NIGHT, OFFERING THE KEY THAT OPENS WIDE HER GATES OF HORN...
...TO THE EMANATIONS OF DELIVERED SOULS...
CRUNCH
CLICK
BOOM
BOOM

THIS SOCIETY...
ABSOLVED
CONSECRATED
SANCTIFIED
...POSSESSED OF THE DEVIL...
MOORE
...LIKE A FLOOD OF BLACK CROWS IN THE FIBERS OF HIS INTERNAL TREE...
...SUBMERGED HIM IN A LAST SWELL...
AND...
...TAKING...
HIS PLACE...
...KILLED HIM.

SHIT SHIT SHIT

OH, YOU SEWER RATS ARE SO FAITHFULL, YOU CAUSE ME TO BLUSH TO MY BONES...
...YOU NEVER STOP DYING FOR ME!

LOVE BITES, T BIRD?
COME ON, KIDS...
...THIS ISN'T CALVARY HILL.

BOOM
WALK AWAY FROM THAT, MOTHER...
NOT A CHANCE.
YOU SHOULD BE.
SCARED?
NO?
LAST CALL!
IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE ME TO DIAL 911 PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.

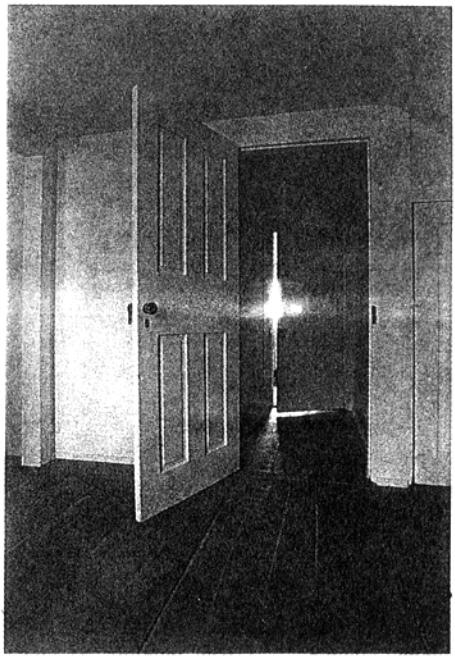
FORGET THIS NIGHTMARE!! I'M OUTTA HERE.
BUCKLE UP, SHELBY, IT'S THE LAW.
MAN, YOU STINK!
SO, WHAT DID THE HOOKER SAY, SHELBY?
SKREEEE

DOES T BIRD KNOW WHERE HE'S HEADED?
NO.
HE DOESN'T KNOW...
I.
KNOW.
GODZILLA
steel tide on an asphalt beach
SO LONG DEE-TROIT, GOT SOME BROTHERS UP IN FLINT... WALKIN' NIGHTMARE WON'T NEVER FIND ME THERE.
GODDAMMIT SHELBY!! QUIT FLOPPIN' YOUR SLIMEY HEAD IN MY LAP! YOU'S MAKIN' ME SICK!
I OUGHT TA STOP AN' DUMP YOUR DEAD ASS BUT AINT NO WAY I'M SLOWIN' UP FOR NOTHIN'.
THAT DUDE AINT NEVER GONNA CATCH...
ME.

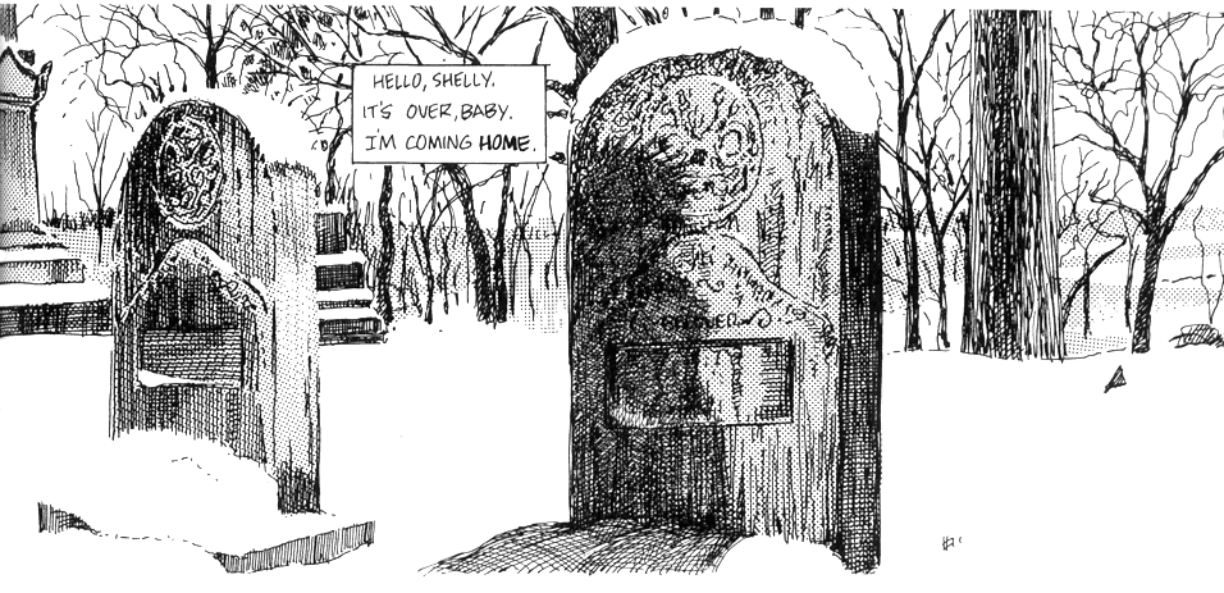
SHIT!!
THIS...WRONG... THE WRONG ROAD...
THIS IS WHERE...
WHAT THE??
SNAP!
SKRREEEEE
OOOF JESUS
WHAM
SKRUSSH
BLINK BLINK BLINK BLINK
..OOOHH MAN..

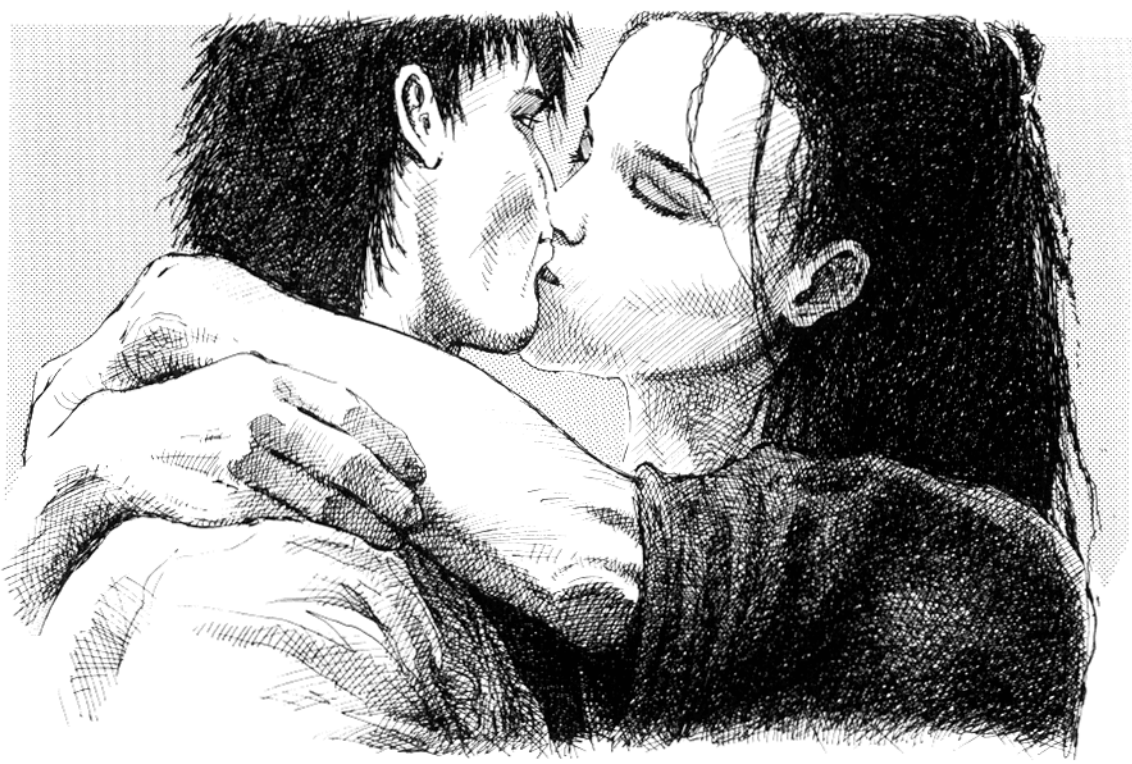
OOOH MAN.. MY LEGS ARE BUSTED UP REAL BAD...
OH JESUS...
WELL?!?
COME ON!! DO IT!!
PUSSY. YOU AINT SHIT.
HEY, T BIRD...
..HOW MANY ANGELS CAN DANCE ON THE HEAD OF A PIN?
MAN, I DONT KNOW.
IT DEPENDS ON THE TUNE.
A FUCKIN' QUIZ...

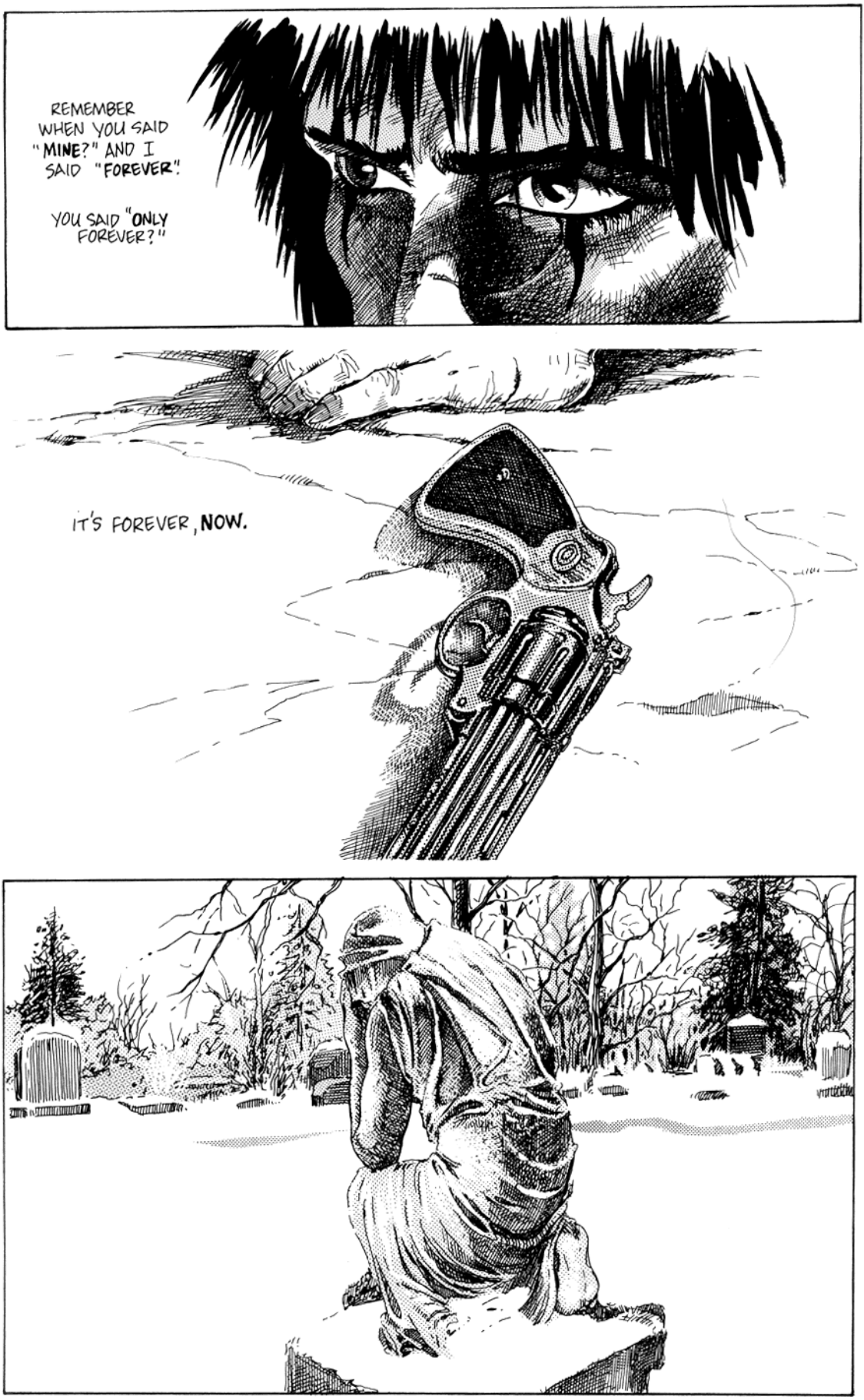
PASSOVER



BELOVED


HELLO, SHELLY.
IT'S OVER, BABY.
I'M COMING HOME.
BELOVED




REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAID "MINE?" AND I SAID "FOREVER".
YOU SAID "ONLY FOREVER?"
IT'S FOREVER, NOW.

END

BEING BEAUTEOUS

Against a fall of snow, a being beautiful, and tall
Whistlings of death and circles of faint music
Make this adored body, swelling and trembling
Like a specter, rise...
Black and scarlet gashes burst in the gleaming flesh.
The true colors of life grow dark,
Shimmer and separate
In the scaffolding around the vision.

Shiverings mutter and rise,
And the furious taste of these effects is charged
With deadly whistlings and raucous music
That the world, far between us, hurls up at our mother of beauty...
She retreats us, she rises up...

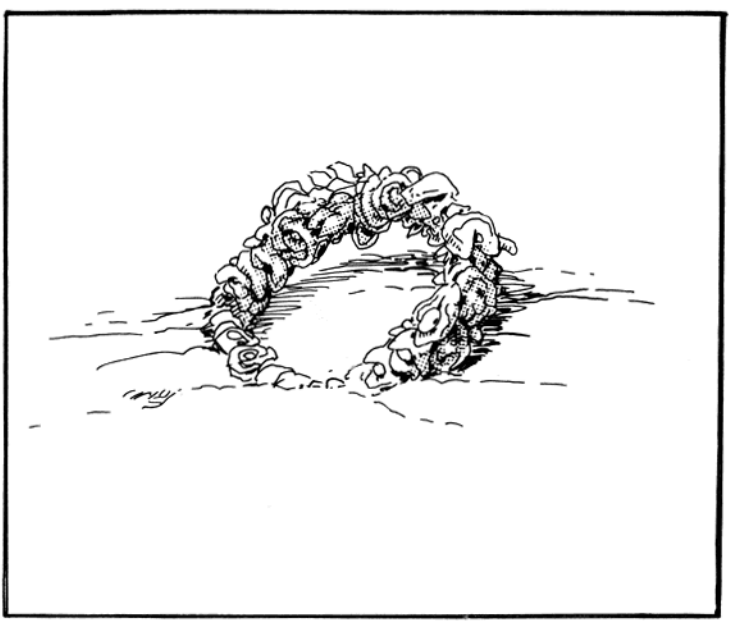
O ash-white face

O tousled hair

O crystal arms!

On this cannon I mean to destroy myself
In a swirling of trees and soft air!

—A. Rimbaud



CODA

AFTERWORD

FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS, THE GREATEST OF THE GODS WAS THE CROW, THE DREAM-CARRIER, WHO BROUGHT CIVILIZATION TO THE PEOPLE IN PALEOLITHIC TIMES. MAMMOTH-IVORY CARVINGS FOUND OVER A VAST AREA FROM EUROPE TO THE NEAR EAST DEPICT A GODDESS WITH THE RAPTOR TRAITS OF A CARRION BIRD: THREE-FINGERED TALONS AND A BEAKED FACE - A PREDATOR CROW WITH BREASTS.

ABOUT TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO, WHEN THE GODDESS BECAME A GOD, THE SAME WINGED OMNIVORE CONTINUED AS CHIEF DEITY ALMOST EVERYWHERE: THE ARCHAIC GREEKS CALLED HIM CRONOS, LITERALLY THE CROW, THE TIRELESS TRAVELLER AND HUNGER MACHINE THE ROMANS RENAMED SATURN, GOD OF TIME. THE SUN GOD APOLLO, WHOSE NAME MEANS THE DESTROYER, WAS ANOTHER GREEK AVATAR OF THE CROW, AS WAS THE NORSE KING OF THE GODS, ODIN. TO THE CELTS AS WELL AS ABORIGINAL AMERICAN NATIONS, THIS SCAVENGER BIRD CARRIED THE COSMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GREAT BENEFACTOR, THE CREATOR OF THE VISIBLE WORLD. THE GERMANIC AND SIBERIAN TRIBES SIMILARLY WORSHIPED THE CROW AS AN ORACULAR HEALER, AND IN CHINA, THE BLACK-FEATHERED PREDATOR WAS THE FIRST OF THE IMPERIAL EMBLEMS, REPRESENTING YANG, THE SUN, AND THE VITALITY OF THE EMPEROR.

DURING MEDIEVAL TIMES, "THE SHADOW OF THE SUN" WAS HOW EUROPEAN ALCHEMISTS DEFINED THE CROW, THEIR SYMBOL FOR THE "NIGREDO", THE BLACKNESS OF DESPAIR AND ITS POISON-CURE, THE UNITY LATENT IN CHAOS. THAT UNITY IS THE CROW'S RAPTURE, A LIFEFORCE SO POWERFUL IT CAN ACTUALLY LIVE OFF DEATH ITSELF. THAT - AND ITS OUTER SPACE COLOR IN BROAD DAYLIGHT - IS WHAT IMPRESSED THE FIRST PEOPLE. THE CROW IS THE HUNGER OF THE SKY. WHEN IT COMES DOWN, IT EATS EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE DEAD, AND IT REJECTS NOTHING. IT IS INVULNERABLE. IT IS WIDER THAN TIME.

AT OUR HUMAN LIMITS, WHEN WE'VE GONE AS FAR AS OUR BODIES AND IMAGINATION CAN TAKE US, WE MEET THE ETERNAL ONES, THE POWERS THAT BUILT OUR FLESH OUT OF THE MINERAL ACCIDENTS OF CREATION AND THAT ARE NOW BUILDING OUR INDIVIDUAL FATES OUT OF TIME AND THE ACCIDENTS OF OUR HEARTS. THEY ARE SPACELESS AND TIMELESS AS NUMBERS, AND YET, AS WITH NUMBERS, ALL ORDER IN SPACE AND TIME COMES FROM THEM. IN A GLARE OF EARTHLIGHT, THE CROW EMERGES OUT OF THE SUPERREAL. HE IS THE APPETITE OF THE ETERNAL ONES FOR THE MORTAL POWERS OF THE WORLD.

J. O'BARR'S **THE CROW** IS AN EXCARNATION OF THIS CELESTIAL DEVOURER. THIS CROW IS THE SAME MELANCHOLY AVENGER WHO CASTRATED HIS FATHER, KING OF THE MOUNTAINS (URANUS), TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO IN THE FIRST KINGDOMS, THE BRUTAL ARYAN WARCAMPS OF INDO-EUROPE. HE IS IMMEMORIALLY OLD - AND INCONSOLABLE, BECAUSE HE IS HIS OWN HADES. GHOSTS DWELL IN HIM. HIS CLOWN-WHITE AND FEMININE FEATURES HARKEN ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE IVORY CROW-GODDESS OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE MAKER AS THE TAKER, THE BLOOD-

DRAINED FACE OF MAMA DEATH. HER GHOST CROWS DESCENDING TO PLUCK THE SOULS FROM OUR CORPSES.

THE BLOOD REMEMBERS THIS. WHAT O'BARR ADDS IS THE ACID-BURN OF CITY APOCALYPSE. THE PHYSICAL DREAD OF OUR ANIMAL GRIEF IN THE ASPHALT CANYONS WHERE DEATH PRETENDS TO BE LIFE. BY THIS IMMEDIACY. O'BARR CREATES ROUGH. SPARE. SINEWY. AND RAPID ARCS OF VISION AND MAKES A SIMPLE SUPERNATURAL TALE OF REVENGE A POISON-CURE TO THE COMPLETE ABSENCE OF IMAGINATION - MINDLESS VIOLENCE.

TEARS. SALTY BLOOD. BONESHARDS AND THE SLUDGE OF BRAINS ATTEND THIS VISION OF THE TRANSCENDENTAL MYSTERY OF THE CROW. IT IS HOW THE DEAD ARE TONGUED WITH FIRE. IT IS AN UNNATURALLY NATURAL WAY TO EXPRESS WHAT THE DEAD HAVE NO SPEECH FOR: SHADOWS OF INK PLAY WITH MOTIONLESS MOTIONS ON THE EMPTINESS OF THE PAGE AND A CROW WAKES IN THE HEART. IT IS AN ILLUSION AND A VOLUPTUOUS TRUTH ABOUT WHY WE ARE UNFINISHED AND CANNOT FLY.

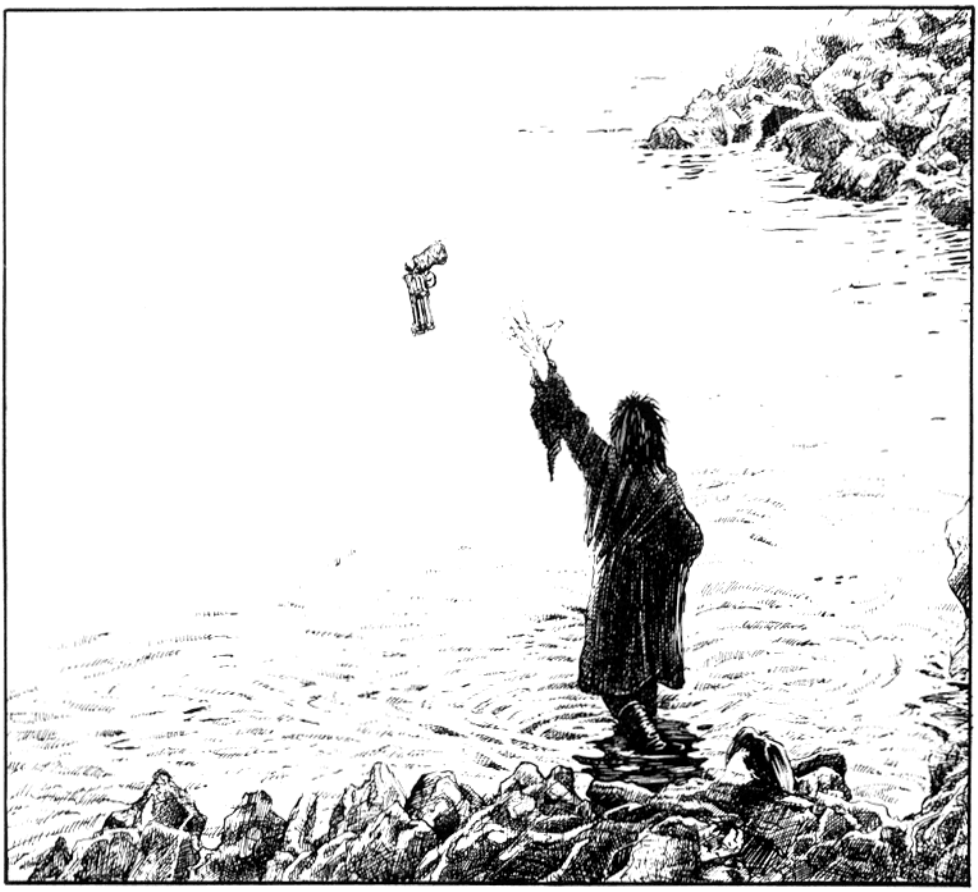
AND. BECAUSE THE HAND REALLY IS NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT CREATES. IT IS ALSO O'BARR'S PERSONAL TRUTH - A RITUAL. DONE FOR US.

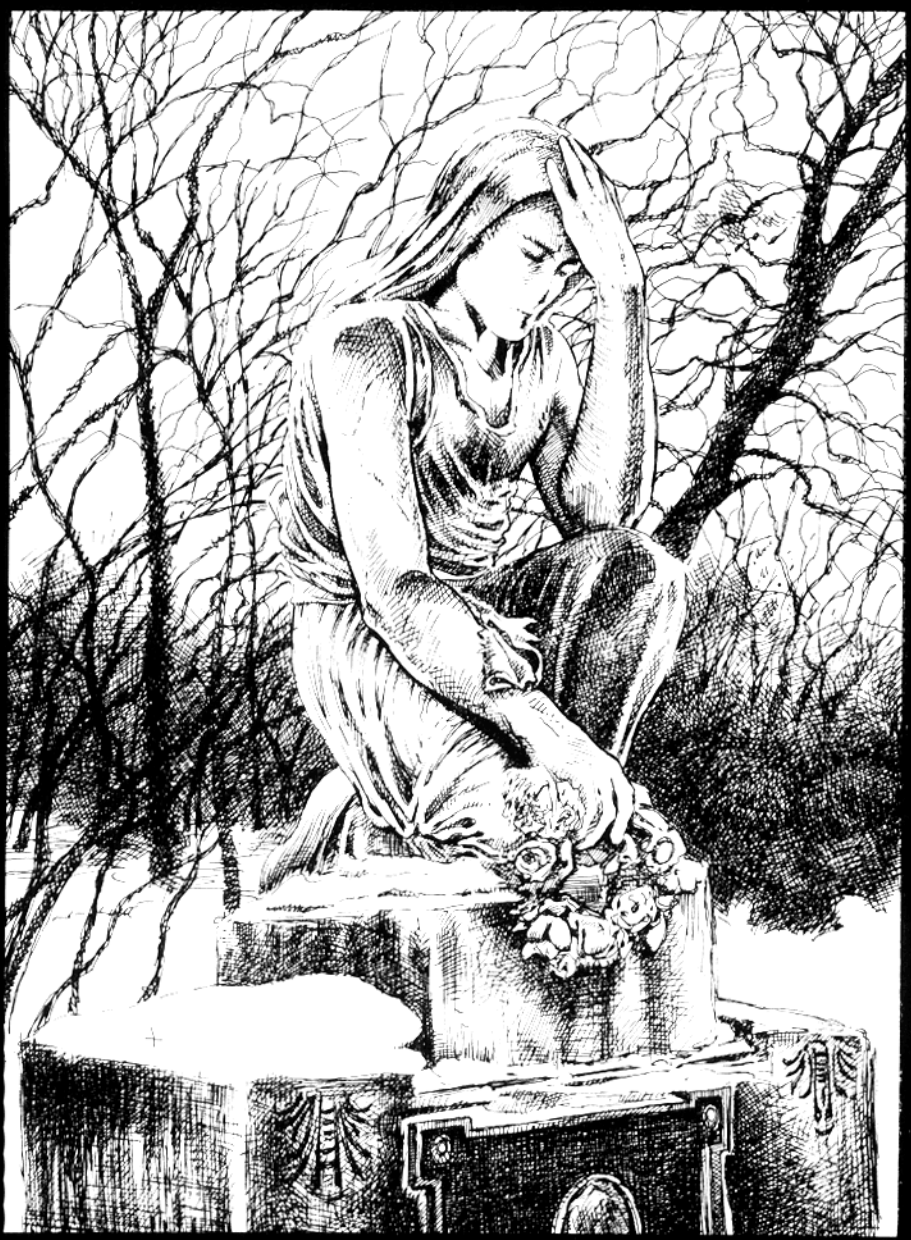
AS WITH EVERY TRUE RITUAL. IT IS A KILLING FLOOR. THE MORE SACRED THE RITUAL. THE MORE MESSY AND GRUESOME THE BLOOD-LETTING. SATURN DISEMBOWELED. ODIN PIERCED AND HANGING FROM THE STORM TREE - THE CROW CREATING A ZOMBIE TO DESTROY DOZENS OF VIOLENT. EVIL LIVES. THIS PURGING OF EVIL IS A PRIMORDIAL FANTASY PROMINENT EVEN AT THE DEEPEST RANGE OF CONSCIOUSNESS - BECAUSE IT IS ROOTED IN THE SUZERAIN TRUTH THAT WE ARE ALL EQUAL BEFORE DEATH. NO MORTAL HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE ANOTHER'S BODY OR LIFE. YET PEOPLE ARE RAPED AND KILLED EVERY HOUR. THE WHOLE WORLD IS INFECTED. AND THE INNERMOST SECRET SPIRIT INSIDE THE RECESSES OF INERT MATTER WATCHES WITHOUT BLINKING.

THE CROW IS THIS CHTHONIC SPIRIT'S LONG FANTASY. FOUR BILLION YEARS OF RAW FOOD EATEN ALIVE HAS MADE THE ANIMAL MIND WE HAVE INHERITED A WILD. HUNGRY HAPPINESS. LIFE FEEDS VORACIOUSLY ON THE SILENCES OF THE DEAD. BEHOLD OUR SPECIES' RAVENING OF PLANETARY SOURCES. WE ARE ALREADY. ALL OF US. SURVIVORS OF AFTERMATH. IN OUR IGNORANCE AND TAMELESS GREED WE HAVE RAPED AND KILLED THE ONLY WOMAN THE CROW EVER LOVED. NOW HIS SCAR-SPLIT MASK FILLS THE WORLD. AND EACH OF US IS ONE OF HIS CASUALTIES.

- A. A. ATTANASIO
HONOLULU 1992

ICH BEDÜRFNES JESUS CHRISTUS HANGELENK
MEIN GEBEIN WEINEN
ODLAND, KRIEGSBIET, LEBENWEISE
GESCHWINDIGKEIT, HALBMESSER, ABSTEIG
GNAPENSTOB





ONE WAY
GIN MIL
CURT
J.O'BARR

ANGELS ALL FIRE

THE CROW
A LOVE STORY
URBAN COMBAT
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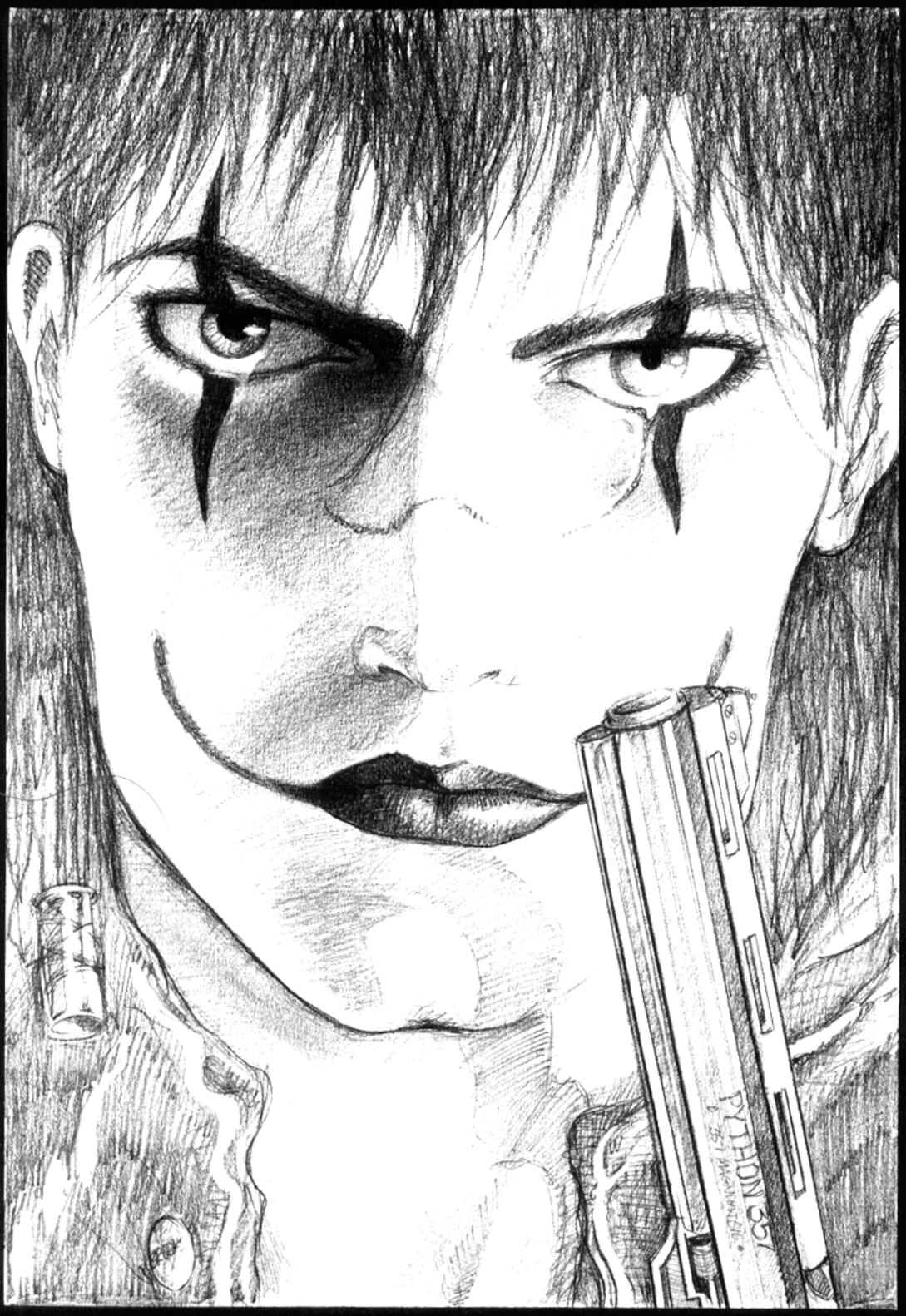


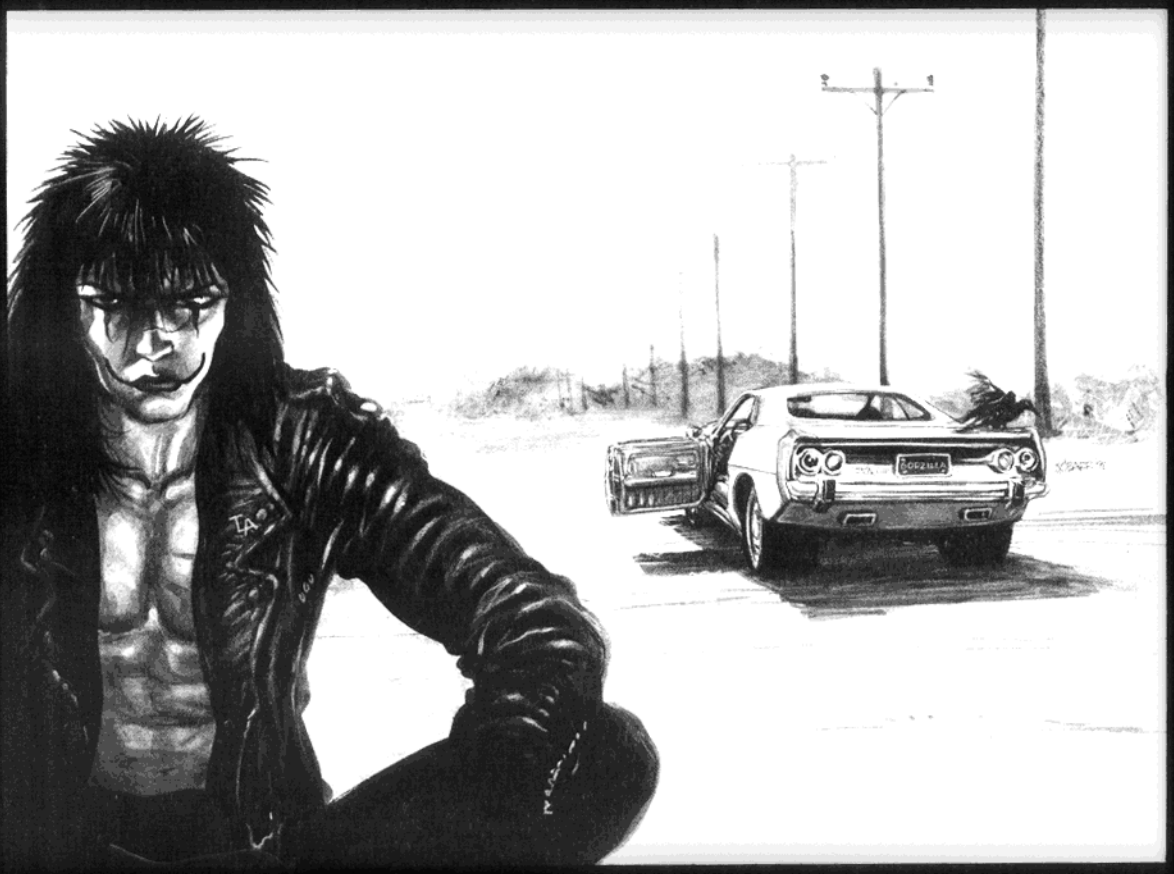
DIES IRAE, DIES ILLA

DECADES

Here are the young men,
A weight on their shoulders
Here are the young men,
Well where have they been?
We knocked on all the doors
Of Hell's darker chambers
Pushed to the limits
We dragged ourselves in
Watched from the wings as
The scenes were replayed
We saw ourselves now as
We never had seen
Portrayal of the traumas and degeneration
The sorrows we suffered
And never were freed
Where have they been?

Weary inside, now our hearts
Lost forever
Can't replace the fear
Or the thrill of the chase
These rituals showed up the door
For our wanderings
Opened and shut, then slammed
In our face
Where have they been?

- JOY DIVISION



"ONE OWES RESPECT TO THE LIVING.
TO THE DEAD ONE OWES ONLY TRUTH."
-VOLTAIRE

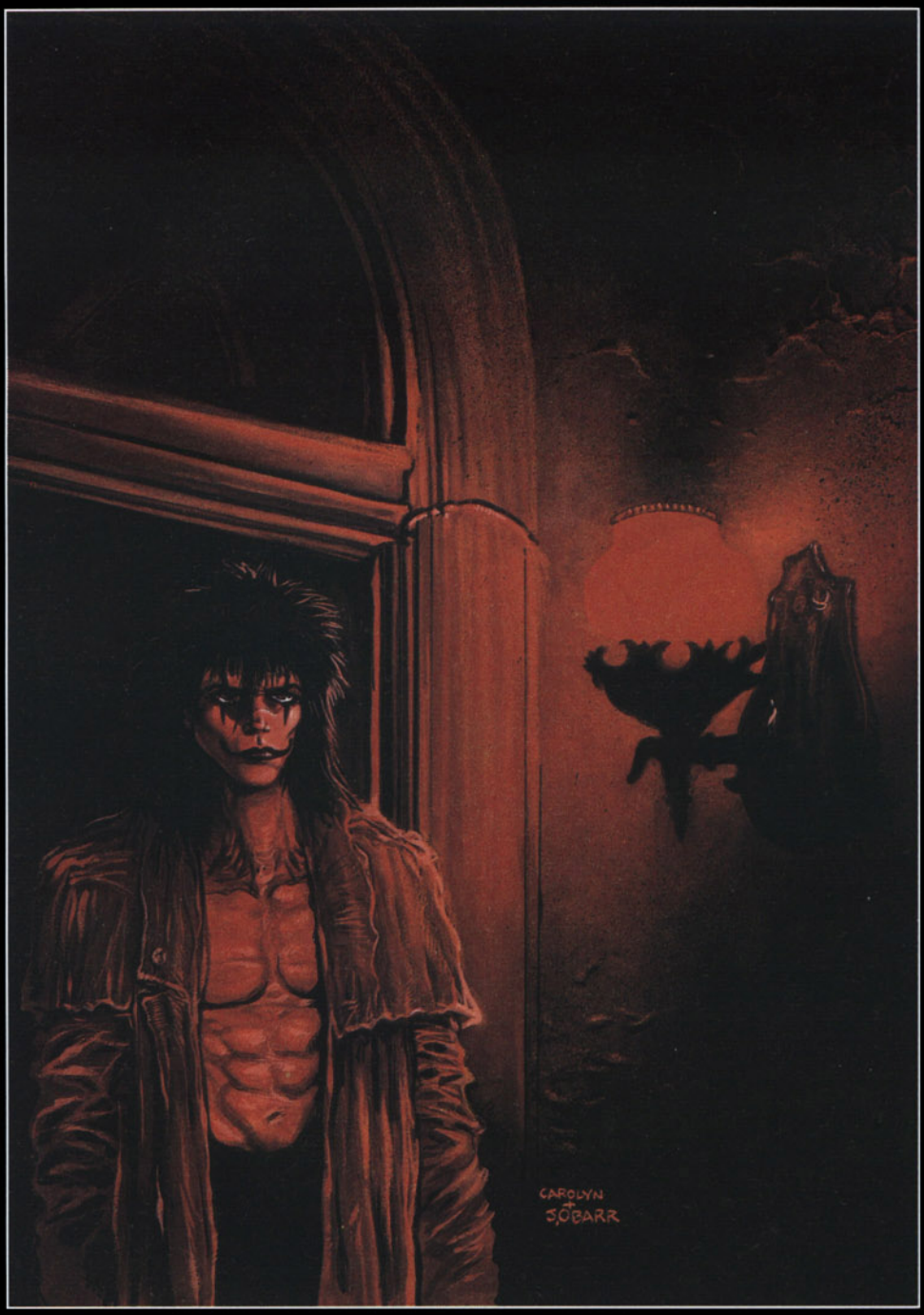
JOBAER '91

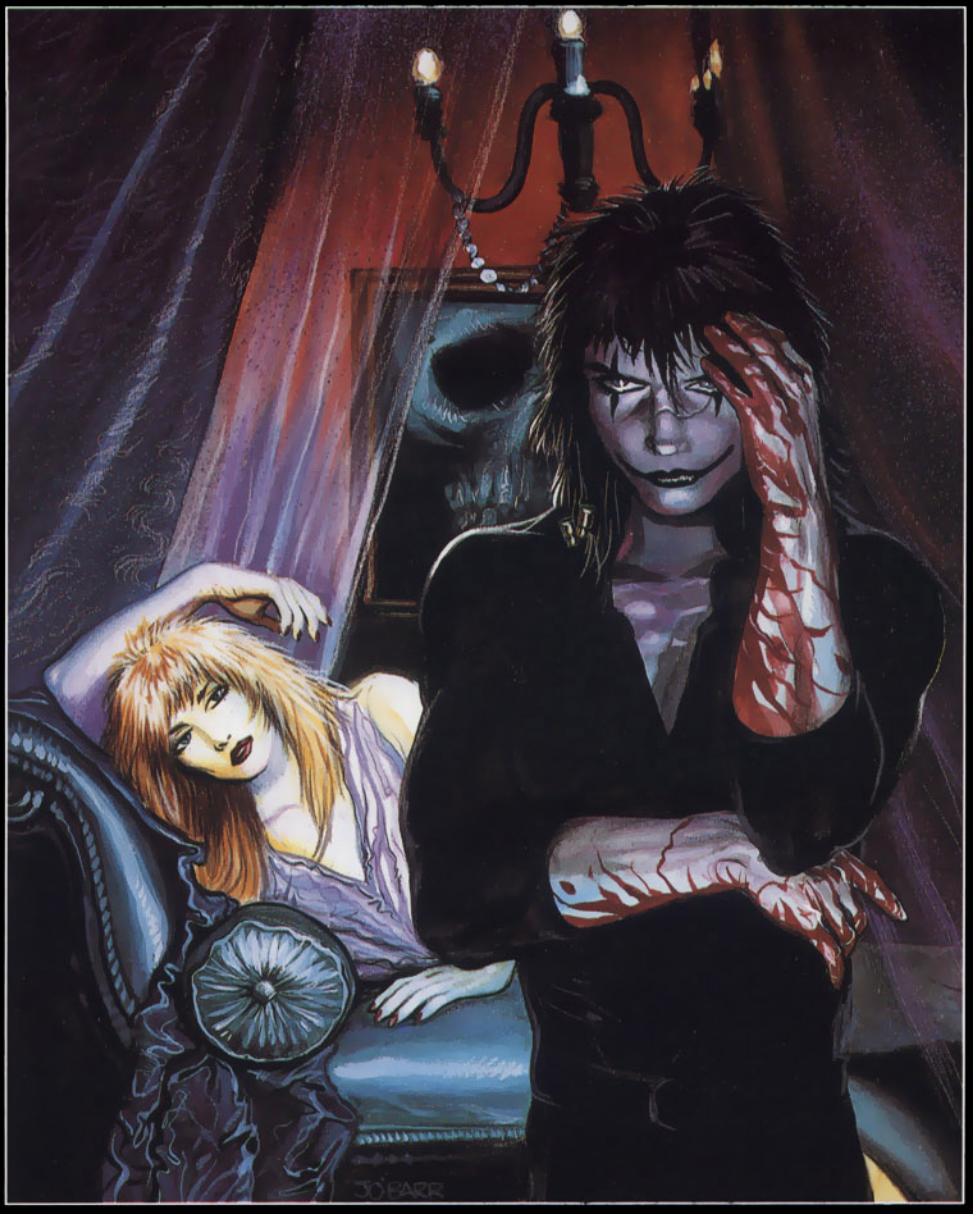
SERENDIPITY?

KOMAKINO

This is the hour when the mysteries emerge
Strangeness so hard to reflect
A moment so moving goes straight
to your heart
Condition that's never been met
The attraction that's held like a wake
deep inside
Something I'll never forget
Pattern is set, the reaction will start
Complete but rejected too soon
Looking ahead in the grip of each tear
Impulse that blinds every move
Shadow that stood by the side of the road
Always reminds me of you
How can I find the right way
to control all the conflicts inside,
All the problems beside
As the questions are right,
and the answers don't fit
Into my way of paying, into my way
of paying

JOY
DIVISION


CAROLYN
&
J.O.BARR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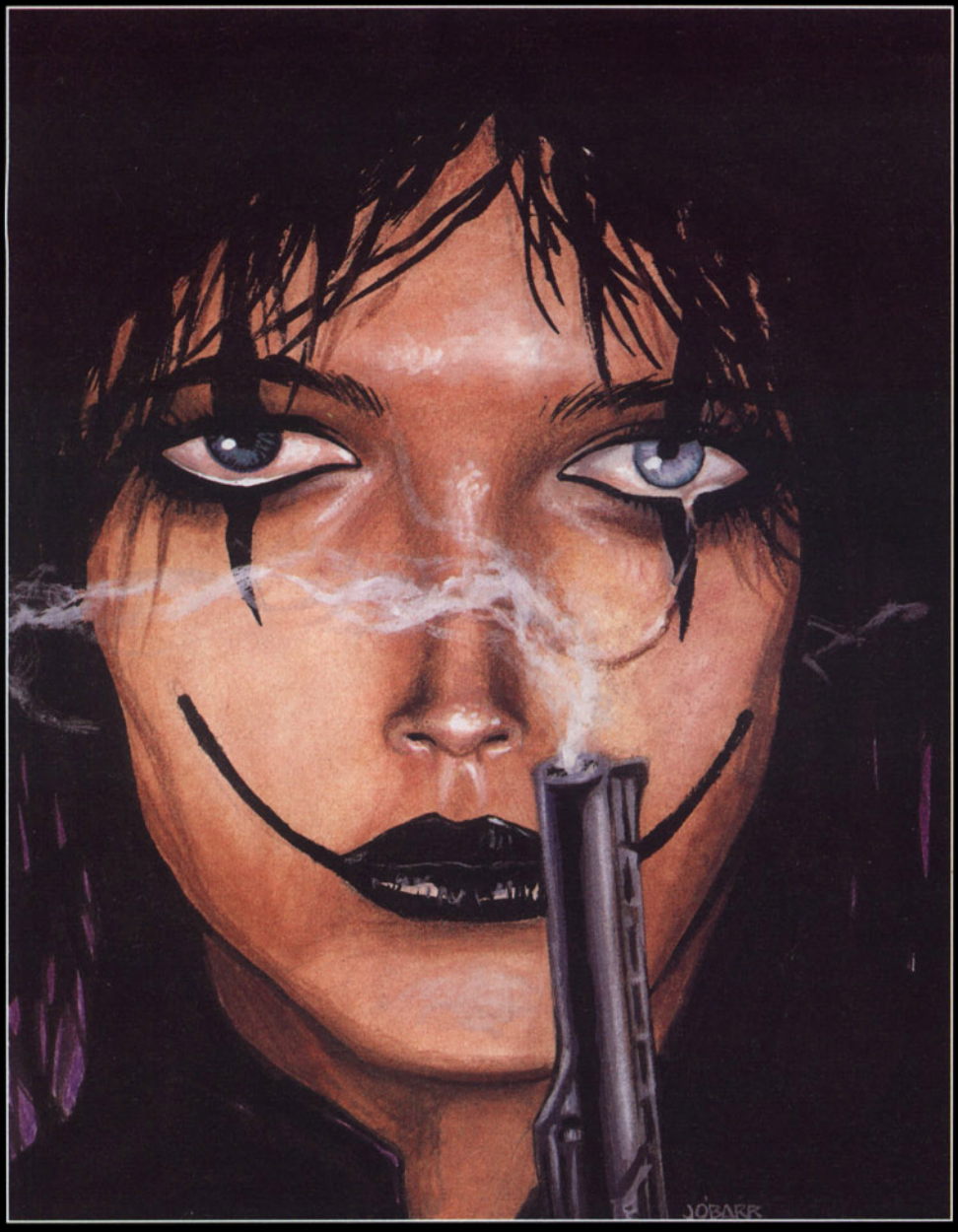
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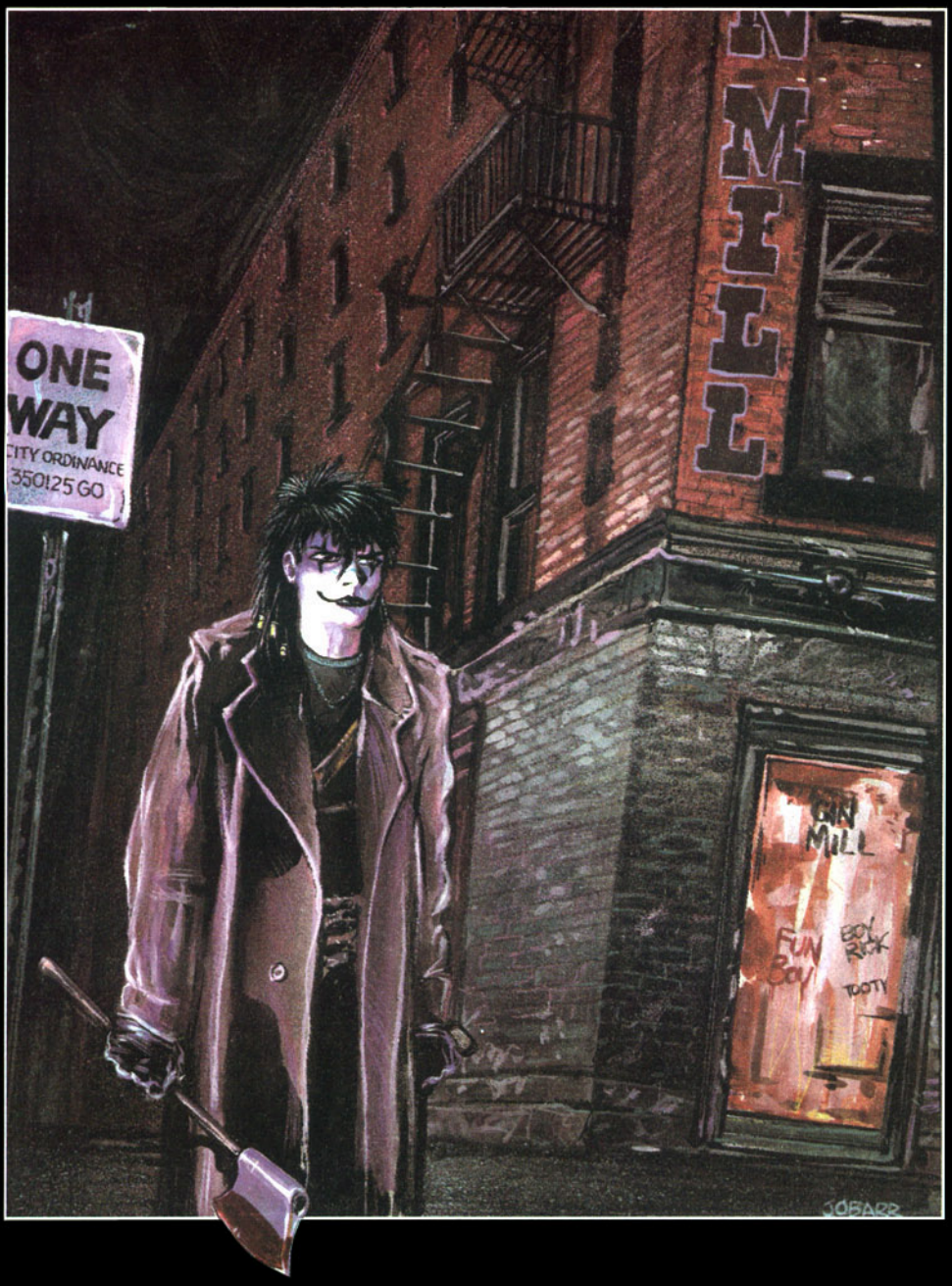
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